

ELIZABETH'S STORY

Our exclusive serialisation of Sarah Bradford's authoritative biography of the Queen



PAGE 13

Part four: her devotion to duty sets her apart from her own children



INTERFACE How to find the right image for your product at a stroke



The bad girls Channel 4's new Girlie Show is all mouth and no trousers

Terrorists hijack Black Sea ferry

By Michael Evans... HEAVILY armed Chechen rebels seized a Turkish ferry in the Black Sea port of Trabzon last night...

about 20 Chechens firing Kalashnikov automatic rifles at about 6.20 pm local time...

person already. Three hours later, the raiders found the ferry's Turkish captain Mustafa Tunca...



In the devastated Chechen capital of Grozny, a new hostage crisis developed when an unidentified group kidnapped up to 40 workers...

back into the centre of the village where they were holding the mosque and school and several nearby buildings...

killed. Moviadi Udugov, a Chechen rebel spokesman, claimed the bodies of more than 200 Russian soldiers were lying in the streets...

TUC chief hails Blair boost for unions

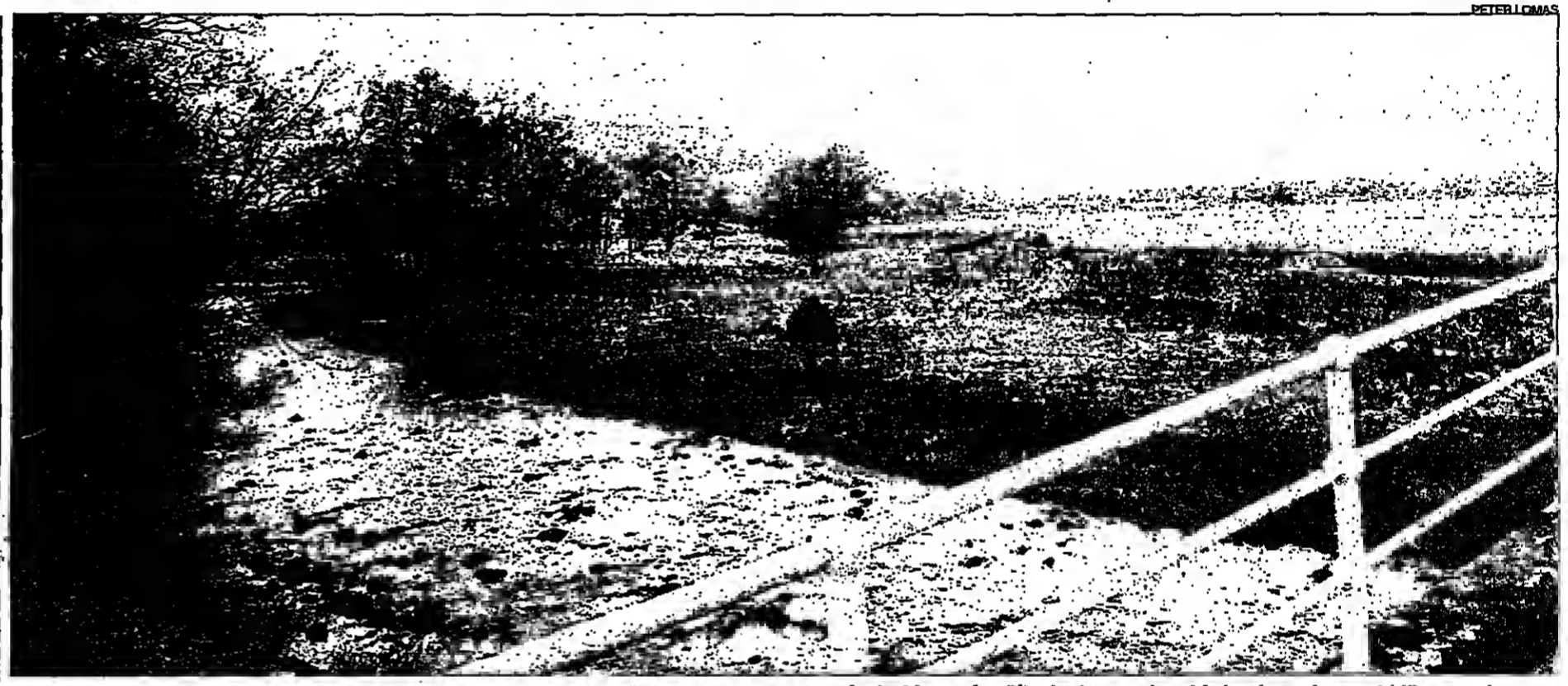
By Philip Webster, Political Editor... THE leader of the trade union movement hails the political dispute over Tony Blair's plans for a 'stakeholder economy'...

lead to a return to the 1970s, or give the Tories a chance to rerun their anti-union arguments of the 1980s...



Monks fuels dispute over stakeholding

But Mr Monks writes: 'For once the Conservatives felt they were on the front foot last week. When the Prime Minister and his deputy condemned Tony Blair's vision of a stakeholder economy they hoped to reach familiar ground...



The Queen's idyll, the Hodder valley in northern Lancashire: she is quoted in Sarah Bradford's biography Elizabeth as saying this is where she would like to retire to

Quiet valley the Queen dreams of making her home

By Kate Alderson

Bowland, which she once told a friend: 'Philip and I would like to retire to'...



THE Lancashire backwater in which the Queen dreams of retiring with the Duke of Edinburgh is revealed today as the Hodder Valley, set in 6,000 acres of Crown lands in the Forest of Bowland...

The Queen, as Duke of Lancaster, owns the 52,000-acre Duchy of Lancaster estate, a patchwork of landholdings scattered across England and including the freehold of the Savoy hotel in London...

stone walls, and is sparsely populated. But there are plenty of pheasant, salmon, grouse and trout. Dunsop Bridge is given on the Ordnance Survey national grid as the 'exact centre of Great Britain and 401 associated islands'...

bought from the Towneley family by the Duke in 1938. In 1989 the Queen threw a private party there for all her tenants...

visited by the Duke and Duchess of York during their early courtship, dates back at least to the 15th century as a royal hunting lodge and members of the Royal Family have

'called in over the years,' according to the owner and Queen's tenant, Richard Bowman.

Ski star killed in downhill crash

By Leyla Linton

KIRSTEEN MCGIBBON, Britain's female downhill skiing champion, was killed yesterday after crashing during training in Austria...



McGibbon: knocked out during training run

in a training run for the Lowlander championships in Altenmarkt-Zauchensee, about 30 miles southeast of Salzburg, when she fell on an icy part of the course and was knocked out. She died after being flown to hospital by helicopter...

The accident happened during downhill practice on the Altenmarkt World Cup track where the Austrian World Cup skier, Peter Wirsberger II, was killed in an accident during non-competitive skiing more than three years ago...

Nunn hits back at TV opera attack

By Stephen Farrell

TREVOR NUNN, the theatre director, last night attacked Sir James Spenser, the Royal Opera House board chairman, for calling him a 'bastard' during a television documentary...

times in the arts. They really are bastards the way they play us about like this. You don't kick them enough. It really annoys me.

Mr Nunn, a former artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, said he was 'sickened' by the outburst over his direction of the Janacek opera Katya Kabanova. Sir James's remark is heard in the second episode of The House, a behind-the-scenes series which began on BBC2 last night...

Last night Mr Nunn said that he was 'shocked and bemused' at suggestions that he was extravagant. 'Since this is a form of trial by television, I must plead innocent to all charges. I was Continued on page 2, col 4

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Defector's best-laid plans suffer circulation problems

It is in order to call Michael Howard odious? MPs briefly discussed this important subject yesterday. On Monday, Alice Mahon (Lab, Halifax) had asked Madam Speaker what methods were available to ask the Minister of State and her odious boss about the "barbaric practice" of shackling pregnant women prisoners.

Yesterday Mrs Mahon rose to apologise. It was Mr Howard's policies, she explained, which were odious, not him. Miss Boothroyd cooed that

the House was grateful that Mrs Mahon had rephrased her remarks. "Oh no we aren't" cried a bunch of Opposition MPs.

Perhaps Labour's Andrew Faulds (Warley E) was among them. The bushy-bearded actor (retired) returned after a long illness last year, as he is feeling better now, as he is starting to be nasty. Faulds was unconvinced that "odious" as applied to Mr Howard, is out of order. Could MPs vote on this, he asked? Madam Speaker brushed this

aside. She brushed aside, too, a complaint against Lady Olga Maitland (C, Sutton & Cheam) who last year gave her own apology to the House for her tactics in harrying the Disablement Bill. Labour's Barry Sheerman accused her of suggesting recently that she was only pretending to be sorry.

Miss Boothroyd took no view and nor do we, though contrition and Lady Olga make unusual bedfellows.

As her performance at PM's Questions had indicated. Was

it de Tocqueville who remarked that the French Constitution, in all its magnificence, afforded to noblemen and beggars an equal right to sleep under bridges? Yesterday Lady Olga, in all her magnificence, explained that in her Tory version of the "stakeholder society" people did have a stake in society because they could own their own homes, and shares on the stock exchange; and pay lower taxes.

Delivered in a Mayfair accent the remark prompted the listener to speculate on just how welcome these freedoms must be to the people sleeping under bridges. I thought of Lady Olga in

the debate which followed, when Emma Nicholson (W Devon & Torridge) made her maiden speech as a Liberal Democrat. Both Olga and Emma have supreme Tory voices, but of two distinct kinds. Nicholson — rich and breathy — speaks County Tory. Maitland — cut glass — speaks Eaton Square Tory.

MPs were debating the World Service of the BBC, Miss Nicholson praising the Corporation's foreign language services. It struck me that the BBC might provide

services in Tory Lady Speak of both the dialects, for those dwindling but influential pockets among the world's population who still prefer to be addressed in these tones.

The better Commons speakers (like Sir Edward Heath, these days) manage without notes. On the backbenches it is considered had forte to read, but Miss Nicholson had decided to stick to the security of a prepared text.

Unluckily she had left a copy on a Commons photocopier. A mischievous Tory

had circulated it among all Tory MPs. The entire Government benches paged noisily through, giggling, as head-down, Miss Nicholson ploughed on, refusing all interruptions.

With defection in the air and handcoffs out of fashion, this was a time to scan the government benches for MPs who might be finding her discomfiture less than hilarious. George Walden (C, Buckingham) fooked dangerously thoughtful.

But then he always does.



POLITICAL SKETCH
it de Tocqueville who remarked that the French Constitution, in all its magnificence, afforded to noblemen and beggars an equal right to sleep under bridges? Yesterday Lady Olga, in all her magnificence, explained that in her Tory version of the "stakeholder society" people did have a stake in society because they could own their own homes, and shares on the stock exchange; and pay lower taxes.

Heseltine's gaffe is just the job for Opposition

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HESELTINE confirmed yesterday what most of the country has feared for years — that Cabinet ministers do not know what day of the week it is. The Deputy Prime Minister disclosed the monthly unemployment news a day before its official publication.

His blunder was doubly embarrassing because he chairs the Cabinet's committee on the co-ordination and presentation of Government policy — better known as the "banana skins" department. One of the Tory spin doctors reacted by saying he was going off into a corner to have a quiet weep.

The figures, which are market sensitive, were not due to be released officially until 9.30 this morning. But Mr Heseltine, who like other senior ministers is told about them 36 hours beforehand, jumped the gun as he came under pressure from reporters over the Government's latest political woes.

Pressed about the attack on Baroness Thatcher by Alistair Burt, the Social Security Minister, Mr Heseltine came unglued as he resorted to the politician's trick of changing the subject. He said: "The real news of today is that unemployment is down for the 28th month in a row — those are the things that matter."

Mr Heseltine, who was visiting the Pilkington Technology Centre in Lathom, near Ormskirk, Lancashire, added: "I am here to celebrate a British company, a major advance, excellent news about unemployment and very strong economic performance."

His over-hasty reply caused red faces in Whitehall, not



Flight Lieutenant Kevin Seymour yesterday proved himself the most proficient combat pilot in the multi-billion pound Eurofighter — even though the plane is still in its development stage (Robing Young writes). Seated at the controls of a computer simulator the Royal Navy pilot beat three other top pilots invited to take part in a series of combat exercises. The Eurofighter may be

several years behind schedule and billions of pounds over budget but the computer game, TFX-EF2000, costs mere hundreds and is highly effective. Developed by Digital Image Design of Warrington, Lancashire, the game incorporates every unclassified detail of the Eurofighter's specification that the designers could glean. The company says the result is so convincing it has won them a contract for a simulator from Nato.

In yesterday's trial, Fl Lt Seymour won the title of Top Gun in a series of dogfights against rivals from the RAF, British Aerospace and British Airways. The pilots took turns in head-to-head combats seated at computer consoles which replicated the controls of the Eurofighter.

Paul Barlow of British Aerospace, an engineer employed on the design of Eurofighter's cockpit, said: "This is very close to the real thing. The head-up display is just what the pilot would see."

Dublin accused fail to appear

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

UNIONISTS and Conservatives expressed anger last night after three alleged republican terrorists failed to appear at a hearing at Dublin's anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court.

John Taylor, the deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party and MP for Strangford, accused the Irish authorities of having acted "deplorably" in giving the men a chance to abscond by granting them bail last year.

The comments came after Dublin's Special Criminal Court issued warrants for the arrest of the three men when they failed to appear in court for a resumed hearing. The three men are facing charges in connection with a big arms find after Irish police inter-

Donaldson questions Hindley jail term

The Home Secretary could face a fresh challenge in the courts after a former Master of the Rolls yesterday questioned the legality of keeping the Moors murderer Myra Hindley in jail for the rest of her life.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton said he did not see how the "tariff", the time a murderer serves in jail, could be increased by a Home Secretary on the basis of public opinion. Hindley's tariff has been increased by successive Home Secretaries from 20 years to 30 years and then to "life". Lord Donaldson said: "I can see no legal basis for it."

Michael Howard is about to consider a report by the Parole Board on Hindley's detention. The Home Office said he would consider the board's advice but must consider other factors, including "maintaining public confidence in the criminal justice system".

Lord Donaldson said, however, that taking into account the public acceptability of a release came "perilously close to lynch law". Lord Donaldson confirmed that he had written to Hindley's legal team, which is considering a possible challenge over her sentence, but said the letter was confidential.

More students drop out

Rising numbers of students are leaving university because they cannot cope with the academic demands of their course, vice-chancellors said yesterday. An estimated 54,000 full-time students abandoned their studies in 1994-95, 10 per cent more than the previous year. The number citing academic reasons for their decision to leave university prematurely rose 20 per cent to 21,000.

Vice-chancellors believe, however, that financial pressures are more to blame for the exodus than intellectual inability. Ted Nield, a spokesman for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said: "People can fail academic courses for financial reasons by spending too much time working for money and not enough in the library."

Meningitis cases refused

St Mary's Hospital in London has turned away children with meningitis because its expertise in dealing with the illness has brought it more referrals than it can handle. Patricia McCann, chief executive, said it admitted 43 children to its paediatric intensive care unit in the ten months to last December but refused admission to 41 others. The hospital takes cases from all over the country.

Masari move defended

In the Commons, John Major defended the decision to order the removal of the Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Masari from Britain to the Caribbean island of Dominica. He said Dr Masari had abused British hospitality and that the United Kingdom should "not give comfort to those who seek to undermine" the Saudi Government. Dr Masari has lodged an appeal against his removal.

Irish honour Charlton

Jack Charlton, left, who resigned last month after ten years as manager of the Irish Republic's football team, is set to become an honorary Irish citizen. The Dublin Cabinet decided yesterday to recommend Mr Charlton, 60, and his wife, Pat, for the honour to President Robinson. The former England footballer will be entitled to an Irish passport and all the rights of Irish citizenship.

Wills legislation shelved

The Government has shelved plans to bring in new legislation to allow "living wills" and to regulate right-to-die cases, the Lord Chancellor announced yesterday. Lord Mackay of Clashfern said the Government had decided against enacting a draft Bill on mental incapacity, drawn up by the Law Commission. Instead it is to issue a consultation paper so there can be wide public consultation.

Radon plans changed

The Government announced a change in its measures against the threat of radon, a radioactive gas that can increase the risk of contracting lung cancer. James Clappison, an Environment Minister, disclosed that the existing system under which any household in England could ask for a free measurement is to be replaced by a scheme aimed at homes in the most affected areas.

Why men don't shop

Despite all the talk of new man, only one in 25 makes the weekly visit to the supermarket, a survey by the Sainsbury's supermarket chain suggests. But the reason appears to be not so much dogged male chauvinism as women's determination not to surrender their traditional hegemony over hearth and home, according to the survey of some 2,000 shoppers in 22 towns and cities.

IRA bomber wins damages for fall

By ADRIAN LEE

THE terrorist bomber Donna Maguire was awarded £13,500 damages yesterday against the Government for an injury she suffered when she tripped on a footpath in Northern Ireland almost 11 years ago. The case was delayed because Miss Maguire, convicted last year of an attack against a British army base, spent six years in custody in Germany.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP, described the award at the High Court in Belfast as scandalous. "Here is a woman who has set out to destroy society and yet she has the blatant cheek to sue for this alleged injury."

"People who have suffered at the hands of her, and people like her, have received smaller sums in terms of compensation. Their reaction will be one of disgust because she has played the system for a fool."

Miss Maguire, sentenced to nine years for the bombing but released because of the time spent in custody, said the ankle injury left her unable to dance, jog or swim. She told the court she fell in Newry, Co Down, in June 1985, after tripping her foot in a broken paving stone. The Department of the Environment, which denied liability, was granted a six-week stay to consider an appeal.

She was awarded £12,000 for pain and suffering with the remainder made up of interest and the loss of her wages as a secretary. Miss Maguire, 29, said: "My ankles were twisted and the left one was bleeding. I was crying and I had to lean on my aunt to get home."

"I still get pain in the ankle when I walk a long distance or have to stand a long time."

Mr Justice Pringle said that despite doubts and suspicions he had reached the conclusion that Miss Maguire fell because of a defect in the pavement. Miss Maguire, from Newry, was convicted last June of taking part in a terrorist attack at the base at Osnabruck, Germany, in 1989.

Falklands await Argentine visitor

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE daughter of the Argentine Foreign Minister is to visit the Falkland Islands with her family. They will travel on Swiss passports because of the Falklands ban on entry by anyone using an Argentine passport.

The trip is seen as continuing a charm offensive by the Buenos Aires Government. The Foreign Minister, Guido Di Tella, sent Christmas cards to all 2,000 islanders, enclosing photographs of his nine grandchildren and expressing hopes that eight of them could visit the islands on non-Argentine passports.

His daughter, Paula Christian-Gaul, who is married to a Swiss national, is due to visit with her husband and four children and may arrive on Saturday.

The Foreign Office said yesterday it was up to the islanders to decide whether to admit the family. Andrew

Gurr, the islands' chief executive, said: "Most people see this as a private visit and they will be treated accordingly."

Islanders compared the Christmas cards to advertising junk mail and said they were a blatant attempt at political propaganda. In his card, Señor Di Tella said: "I know well that the fact that so many Argentines have two passports is considered by you as evidence of disloyal behaviour. Actually, we consider this to be very practical with no further implications."

There are no direct air or sea links between the Falklands and Argentina, and the family would have to travel on a cruise line or on a flight from Chile. Their visit has provoked intense discussion within Argentina, and there are hints that it may be postponed because of the controversy.

Señor Di Tella is due to visit Britain this month for talks with the Government on a new fishing agreement for the waters around the Falklands.

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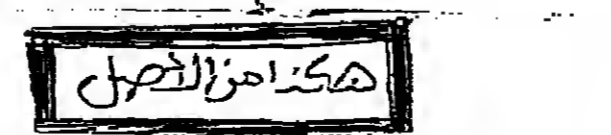
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Newbury protesters face eviction from bypass base

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON AND TIM JONES

EVIDENCE against "professional protesters" compiled by a private detective agency will be used by government solicitors next week in legal proceedings to evict the tree-house dwellers delaying construction of the Newbury bypass.

The High Court will be asked to grant possession orders on four sites occupied by the demonstrators, many of whom are associated with militant environmental groups such as Earth First! and Road Alert. A number of individuals have been identified from previous anti-road protests by Brays, a Southampton-based detective agency also employed by the Government at Twyford Down and for the M11 protest in east London.

A spokeswoman for the Highways Agency, which is building the nine-mile bypass, said: "The names from one site all come up again at the others." She said that Brays had passed on the names and evidence to the Treasury Solicitor, and further action was planned to seek possession of at least half a dozen other

camps along the proposed A34 route.

Police have expressed concern about the role of highly organised radical groups, sometimes known as "eco-warriors". A Special Branch dossier names Earth First! as a main "direct action" group.

Earth First! was founded by Jason Torrance, 24, who was one of ten people jailed over the Twyford Down protest.



Bentham: said business opposed route of road

The group's newsletter carries a "destruction hotline" number with a Reading code and asks supporters to ring and "leave your number so you can be contacted to help stop work". The group has established a "safe camp" to accommodate protesters arriving from other parts of the country.

The organisation is on the Internet and offers a legal helpline for arrested protesters. It also advises on how to claim state benefits and prevent the local jobcentre finding unwelcome employment.

Earth First!'s current newsletter bears the motto "breaking something is the only way" in Welsh and describes itself as "based on a concept of non-hierarchical organisation, direct action and the empowerment of individuals to confront the ecological catastrophe facing our planet".

Emma Must, 29, a former librarian, and Rebecca Lush, 23, a politics student from Hampshire, founder members of Road Alert, are also taking a prominent role. Both spent a month in Holloway

prison for their activities at the Twyford Down protest.

The eviction move came as local businessmen claimed the £100 million bypass was in the wrong place and should be on the eastern side of the town, close to industry. Yesterday, Adrian Foster-Fletcher, who runs a recruitment agency, said: "I am totally opposed to the bypass, particularly on the route they are now ploughing through. It is disruptive and divisive."

"But if there must be a bypass it should be built on the east side of the town where most of the business is," John Bentham, another local businessman, said. "Basically, we are talking about the destruction of beautiful English countryside. If the bypass has to be built they should consider the tunnel option or other solutions."

Another businessman, Clive Osborne, said: "The destruction just seems to be too great. In any event, it is being built in the wrong place, on the wrong side of town from where the industries are." David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat MP for



Demonstrators tie themselves to a tree. Other eco-warriors have been identified as "professional protesters"

Newbury, said he remained "totally convinced" that most people and businesses wanted the bypass. He was backed by Newbury Chamber of Commerce, which said it was certain that most of its mem-

bers were fully behind it. A spokesman for Rascal Vodafone, the largest employer in Newbury, said: "We are very supportive of the bypass."

Police made 34 arrests yesterday as protesters continued

to disrupt clearance work. By 11am, about 100 small trees had been cleared from a site at the northern end of the bypass route. About 20 demonstrators were later perched in the trees. Copying tactics used

against the destruction of Canadian forests, campaigners have driven nails into some trees and left notices warning that "felling" them with chainsaws could be highly dangerous.

High Court bans firm's advert for bald cure

A COMPANY that claimed baldness could be cured by standing upside down was forbidden from advertising its remedies by the High Court yesterday.

Quest Hair Research and Derek Tubb, the director, were ordered to stop publishing advertisements for a book, *Natural Cure for Baldness*, and a hair-restoring formula called Restore.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, which brought the action, said: "Claims made for the book and the formula left consumers in no doubt that they would provide a cure for baldness. The 'cure' outlined in the book amounted to standing on your shoulders for a short period each day."

Evidence from the Office of Fair Trading included testimony from a consultant trichologist who said there was no cure for hereditary baldness.

The director-general sought the injunction after receiving complaints from the Advertising Standards Authority that Quest had continued to publish misleading advertisements despite promising that it would stop.

Mr Bridgeman said: "This was a particularly blatant and persistent attempt to mislead consumers. Companies should be in no doubt that the Office of Fair Trading will take firm action in such circumstances."

Protest to Bottomley over arts funding

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre, Stephen Daldry, the actress Eleanor Bron and the jazz musicians John Dankworth and Cleo Laine are to join a protest today against cuts in spending on the arts and museums.

Sir Michael Tippett and the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro are among prominent figures who have sent messages of support to the National Campaign for the Arts. Speakers at its "Arts Alert Day" will be introduced by Melvyn Bragg.

The campaigners are angered by the Chancellor's decision to cut the arts budget by £8.5 million over the next two years. Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, has agreed to receive a letter arguing that the arts are among our greatest national assets and asking her to "restore the level of funding in real terms to what it was at the time of the 1992 general election".

The conductor Sir Charles Mackerras said: "Like so many people inside and outside the artistic professions, I am horrified that this phillistine Government continually reduces its already miserly support for the arts just when Britain's artistic institutions are flourishing."

This morning there will be a meeting at the Playhouse Theatre and, this afternoon, a lobby of Parliament.

Number crunchers chalk up 55 years

BY IAN MURRAY

FIFTY-FIVE years ago, beer was 10d (4p) a pint and the average house cost less than £2,000. Now beer is £1.49 and houses average £63,000. According to the Central Statistical Office, it now costs more than £1 to buy what sold for a shilling (5p) in 1941, the year the CSO was founded on Winston Churchill's orders.

Britain's principal collector of economic statistics has produced a numerical snapshot of the intervening years to mark its birthday today. In April it will merge with the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys to collate all the nation's statistics.

The CSO was set up in the same building in Horseguards Road as the War Cabinet. Its mission was to reduce the time spent arguing about statistics by producing reliable figures on which to base decisions crucial to the war effort.

After proving its worth in war, the CSO became an essential part of the machinery of peacetime government. Its responsibilities expanded to include the retail price index and the trade figures.

Today's publication, based on the CSO's records over 55 years, shows that the number of private cars has grown from 19 million to more than 20 million, and petrol no longer rationed, is 30 times more expensive. Over those years the population has grown by almost 10 million to 56.7 million, of whom almost one in six is over 64 — double



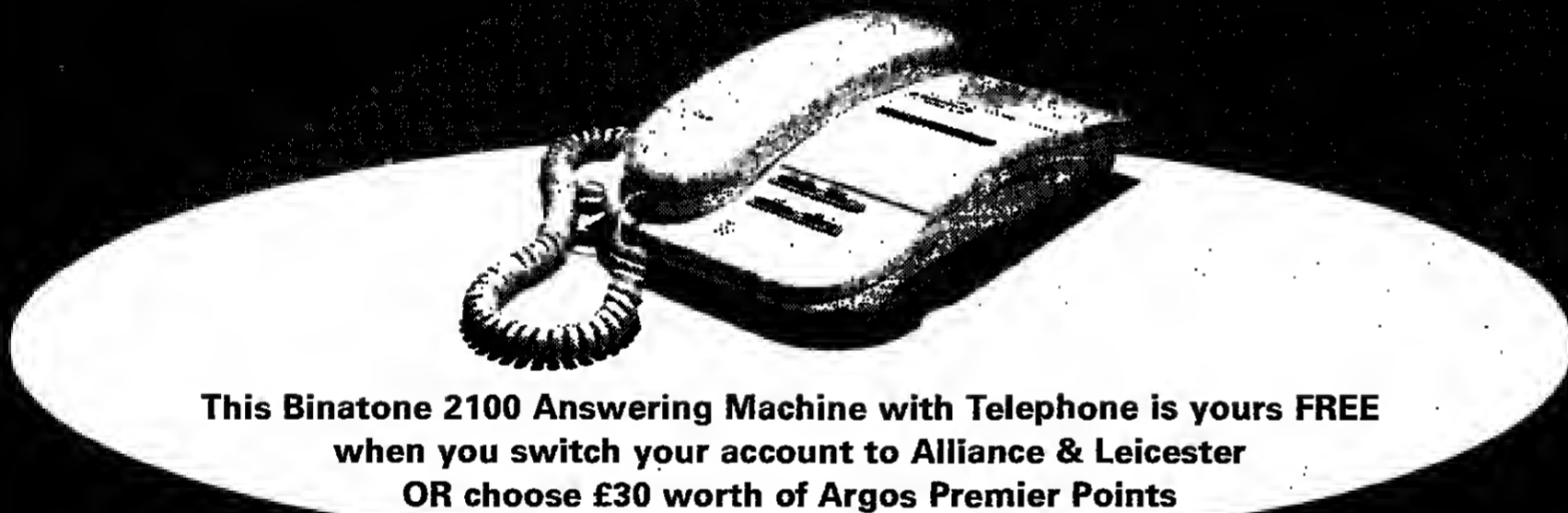
Churchill: needed reliable statistics

the proportion of 1941. Divorces have soared from 7,000 to 160,000 a year and births outside marriage from 53 per 1,000 to 321.

The year the CSO was created Bob Dylan, Placido Domingo and Faye Dunaway were born and James Joyce and Virginia Woolf died. The Marx brothers' *The Big Store* was competing for audiences with *The Maltese Falcon*.

THE TIMES ABERLOUR CROSSWORD CHAMPIONSHIP
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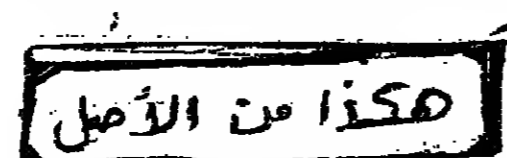
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صباحنا من الامل

Managers are accused of manslaughter by sending out the *Pescado* unfit to sail

Novice crew of six 'killed by executive negligence'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SIX novice sailors were sent to their deaths aboard an unseaworthy trawler that capsized off the Cornish coast, a court was told yesterday. In a rare prosecution, two executives of the company that owned the vessel are charged with manslaughter.

The 60-ton *Pescado*, which sailed from Falmouth, Cornwall, was alleged to have had one inadequate liferaft, no emergency beacon, a broken radio, a faulty compass, a faulty autopilot, obscured navigation lights and an invalid safety certificate.

Francis Gilbert, QC, for the prosecution at Bristol Crown Court, said four other crew had refused to serve on the trawler when it set out on February 25, 1991, to fish for scallops. There was no further contact. By March 8, when the body of the woman cook was washed up near St Austell, it was determined the ship had foundered with the loss of all hands. The following month



Alan Ayres, left, and Joseph O'Connor: breach of duty was a gross negligence, the court was told

the wreck was found on the seabed in 250ft of water, 13 miles south off Dodman Point, Cornwall. On October 4 another body was recovered by a trawler not far from the wreck. In May the next year, the remains of part of a third body were found. No other bodies were recovered. The Marine Accident Investigation

Bureau passed its findings to the Devon and Cornwall police, who had the wreck raised on September 20, 1993, and taken to Devonport Dockyard.

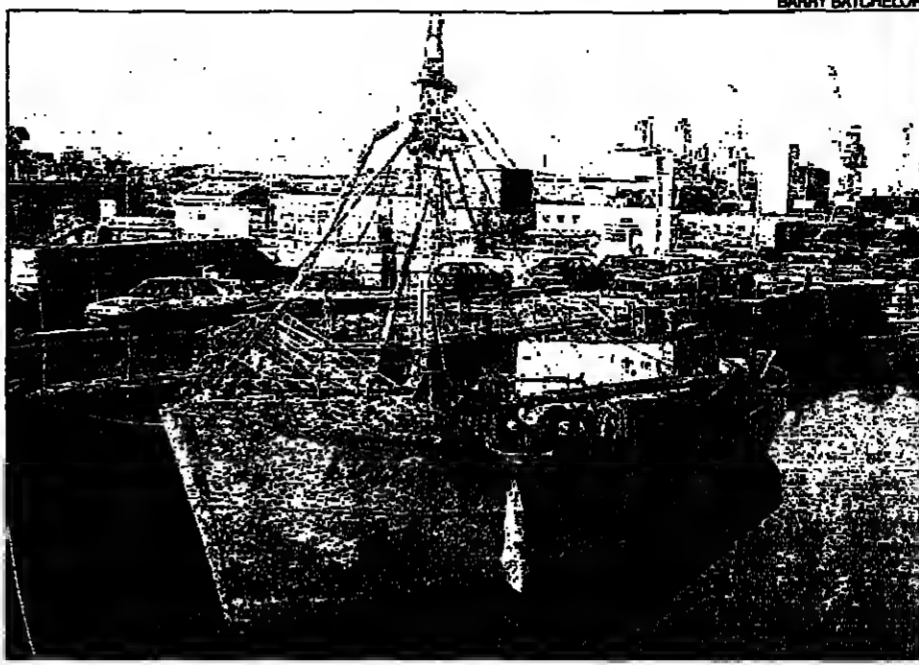
In court, Joseph O'Connor, 44, the managing agent of the company Guideday, and the managing director, Alan Ayres, 56, denied manslaughter

between February 24 and March 9, 1991. The charges allege that the two men, both from Plymouth, were in breach of a duty to the crew to take reasonable care for their safety, and that the breach of duty amounted to gross negligence, which was a substantial cause of the disaster.

Mr Gilbert said there would be evidence that the *Pescado* did not sink because of a collision with another vessel but that she capsized.

The lost crew were skipper Neil Curry, 28, from South Uist, Western Isles; cook JoAnn Thomas, 23, from Plymouth; Peter Birley, 34, of Fleetwood, Lancashire; Steven Hardy, 30, from Plymouth; Sean Kelly, 17, from Bridham, Devon; and Adrian Flynn, 21, from Lincoln.

Mr Gilbert said that, in 1990, a skipper found the *Pescado* to be unsafe, unseaworthy and dangerous. The skipper and three other men who had set out initially from Plymouth decided to leave the vessel on arrival at Falmouth.



Lost with all hands: the *Pescado*, said to have had faulty equipment

This left only Mr Curry and Mr Birley as crew. They were joined by the four others who died.

Mr Gilbert said: "These were the innocents who were on that vessel when it sailed. None of this crew had any qualifications. They were in effect novices sent to their deaths."

In the Guideday company.

Mr Ayres owned half the shares. Mr O'Connor, who provided the fishing experience, had gone bankrupt but in 1990 was in control of the vessel when it was refitted "from being barely more than being fit for scrap".

After complaints from the 1990 crew about the absence of a liferaft, Mr O'Connor produced one from his garden. It

was lashed to the railings instead of hanging free. Regulations required two.

The vessel was only 12 minutes' flying time from the rescue helicopters of the Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose when she sank and some of the crew would have survived had statutory safety equipment been on board. The trial continues.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

Elephant v academic: the animal behaviourist's biggest challenge, in **Weekend**

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Captain dies in fight to save crippled vessel

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE skipper of a fishing boat died and five crew members were injured when an oil-fired stove exploded, spraying the crew with flames and fuel.

Paul Simpson, 43, from Jersey, is believed to have died when he became trapped below decks on the *Inconnu* as he struggled to control the fire and save his boat before she hit rocks at the foot of huge cliffs near the Old Man of Hoy off Orkney.

The accident happened shortly after midnight yesterday but the alarm was raised only seven hours later, when one crew member in a liferaft was spotted by the *St Ola* car ferry. Choppy seas prevented the ferry launching her liferaft but the captain, James Winterburn, manoeuvred his vessel alongside the raft, allowing the crewman to scramble up a ladder.

Andrew Watt, 32, suffering from cold and burns, asked the captain to search for his colleagues. A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth and three lifeboats joined the operation.

Four other survivors were found at the bottom of the 1,100ft cliffs close to the wreckage of the *Inconnu*. They had stayed on board the 37ft crabber and jumped to safety

when the boat hit the rocks. The men, suffering from burns, cuts and exposure, were admitted to hospital on Orkney but later released.

Mr Watt, 32, of Dumbeth, Highland, managed to get on deck through the engine room with other crew members.

"The heat was so fierce it lifted the skin off my hands. I had a rope attached to the liferaft wrapped round my wrist. I was screaming for the other boys to join me, but I was dragged over the side into the water."

"With my boots and heavy socks I was being dragged under. I thought I was going to drown, but I somehow managed to pull myself on to the raft." With flames shooting into the air from the *Inconnu*, Mr Watt fired off six flares but failed to attract a ship a mile away.

"I kept two flares and waited for hour after hour for the *St Ola* to pass. That was my last chance. There was a big swell running, but they managed to put down a rope ladder."

The search for Mr Simpson was called off at lunchtime yesterday. He leaves his wife, Mary, and their two young daughters.

AIR FRANCE

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THE TIMES

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pick up 55 year

Portillo buys British in defiance of his advisers

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE ARMY is to order its next generation of military ambulances from Land Rover after Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, ignored a recommendation to buy a rival Austrian vehicle.



£40 million boost: the Land Rover plant in Solihull

The contract for 700 British-made ambulances worth nearly £40 million is expected to be announced in the Commons during an Army debate tomorrow.

Officials from the Ministry of Defence procurement executive had favoured buying the Austrian Pinzgauer ambulance, made by Steyr Daimler Puch. In trials it was said to have provided a faster and smoother ride for injured troops.

However, the Land Rover also performed well and some defence sources said both vehicles had their good points. Although the Austrian bid was more expensive — apparently by about £60 million — the company said the long-term costs would be considerably cheaper than with Land Rover. This was one of the

claims that impressed officials when they examined the bids even though, technically, the Austrian vehicle exceeded the Army's requirements.

The Austrian company's claim of a more cost-effective "life cycle" was disputed by Land Rover, which has mounted an intensive lobbying campaign in the past few weeks to persuade Mr Portillo to buy British, warning of serious consequences for exports. Mr Portillo also faced

pressure from Tory MPs in the Midlands — where Land Rover is based — including Sir Norman Fowler, the former Tory party chairman.

When Mr Portillo became Defence Secretary he announced an order for American Apache attack helicopters for the Army, rejecting other bids including a European helicopter involving British companies. However, he was merely approving a decision taken by his predecessor, Mal-

colm Rifkind. Mr Portillo is currently deciding whether to order a midlife refit for the RAF's Tornado F3 air defence aircraft — equipping it with new missiles — or lease American F16 fighters for the next ten years. A decision to lease F16s will guarantee political opposition from Labour MPs and some Tories.

Anticipating the announcement of a Land Rover contract, David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said: "It looks as if a bit of common sense has finally prevailed. We found it incredible that the Government could even contemplate not giving the contract to Land Rover."

The Land Rover ambulance is a derivative of the four-wheel drive Defender, which is powered by a 2.5-litre turbo diesel engine. The chassis is strengthened by specialist body sections and can carry four stretchers. The Austrian Pinzgauer has a 2.4-litre diesel engine and a complex pneumatic suspension system.

Land Rover is also expected to be awarded a £125 million contract to supply up to 8,000 light utility trucks.

Weedkiller linked to frogs' decline

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS have established a link between the falling number of frogs and one of the world's biggest-selling weedkillers. Tests indicate that paraquat, used in gardens and on farms, can deform and kill tadpoles after becoming concentrated in certain pond weed.

All over the world frogs appear to be in decline and researchers are linking the fall with a number of possible factors, including rising temperatures, the thinning of the ozone layer and pollution. The findings indicate that weedkillers, which reach ponds from airborne sprays or from land near by, might play a role in the decline.

Scientists are calling for more research to screen the possible impact of a range of herbicides and how they interact with freshwater plants.

The research on paraquat was carried out at the University of Indiana, using the Rio Grande leopard frog.

English Nature, the Government's wildlife adviser, is holding a conference this month at Kew Gardens to promote the importance of garden design for the benefit of amphibians. Mary Gibson, a freshwater expert with the organisation, said yesterday that the findings could have important implications for households with garden ponds.

Zeneca Agrochemicals, a big manufacturer of paraquat, said it believed the weedkiller was safe but it would study the findings. Farmers are told to spray pesticides more than six metres from a water course but paraquat is exempt from this rule.

Solicitors 'fail to heed complaints'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST people who complain about solicitors are highly dissatisfied with the way the profession handles their complaint, according to a survey published by the Law Society today.

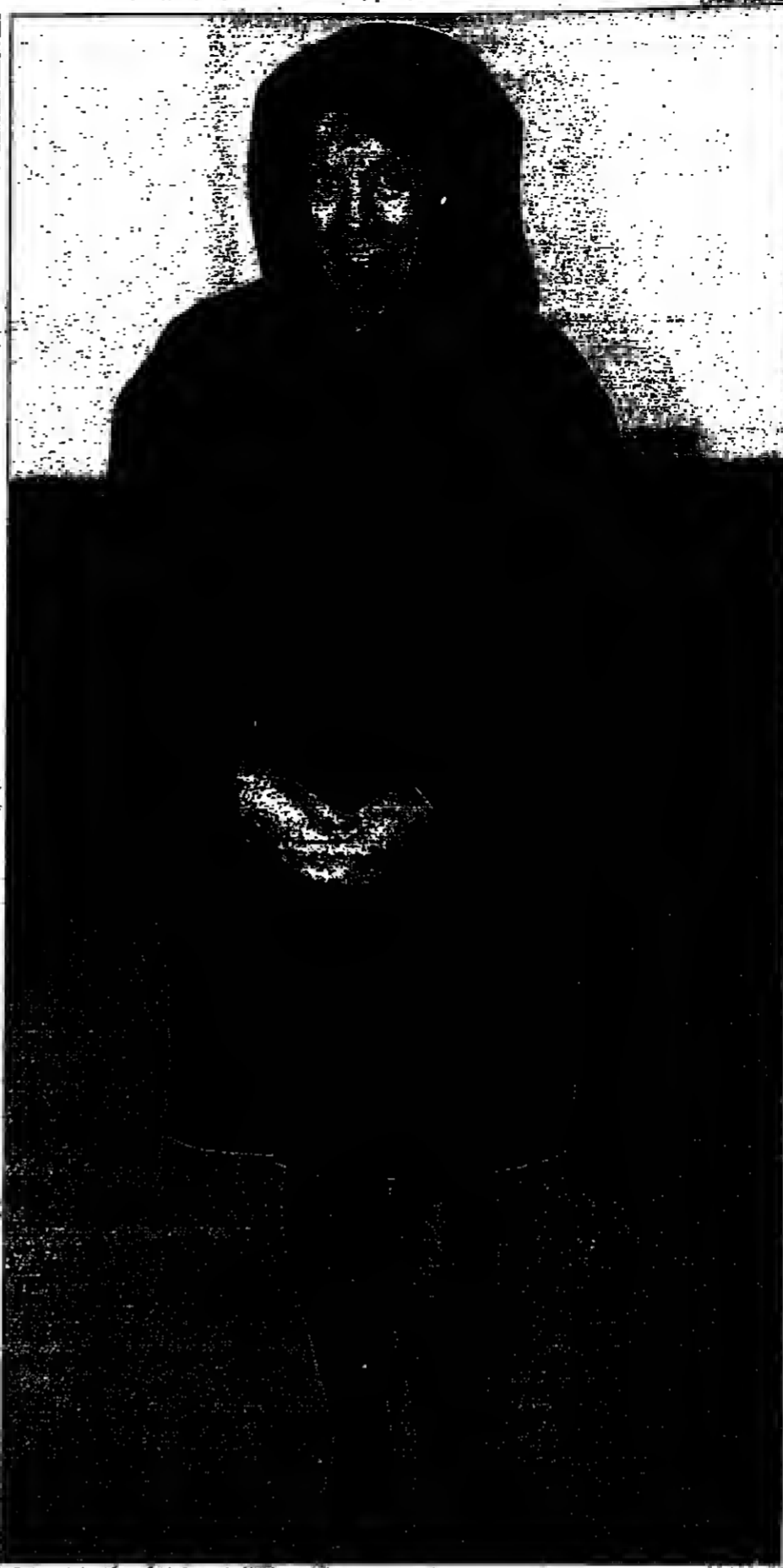
It shows that of a sample of 2,246 complainants to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau, 67 per cent were unhappy with the outcome. Almost half thought the bureau, whose future is under scrutiny, was "heavily influenced in favour of solicitors and the legal profession" and believed that complaints were not investigated properly.

People who were told by the bureau that they did not have a valid complaint, or that their case was closed and that the bureau could not take the matter any further, were particularly dissatisfied. The survey by the Law Society's

research and policy planning unit is the most comprehensive to date on the handling of complaints.

Most complaints in the survey were over "conveyancing and divorce or family work", although there was also a significant proportion generated by personal injury cases. The most common complaints were excessive delay (more than 50 per cent), failure to respond to telephone calls or letters and failure to follow instructions.

The next largest category was excessive charges, with almost a third complaining, compared with 6 per cent of respondents in a survey in 1990. The bureau, based in Leamington, costs the profession in England and Wales £9 million a year and has been criticised by solicitors for being costly and interfering.



Monk on murder charge attacked

The Buddhist monk who has admitted killing Johnnie Mashedier was attacked and abused by a 200-strong crowd when taken to re-enact the crime at a temple cave. Yodchart Suaphoo, 21, was punched in the face by the nephew of the abbot at the Thum Kaapoon temple before police pulled their guns to drive away the crowd.

The Mashedier family, from Wincle, Cheshire, have been upset by pictures of her body appearing in the Thai media. The law graduate, 23, who had been on holiday, died after being pushed into a ravine. Police said yesterday that the murder investigation should be completed in two weeks.

Sickness delays Maxwell verdict

The jury in the Maxwell fraud trial was discharged for the day yesterday after a woman member became ill. Six have had chest infections during more than 47 hours of deliberations at Chichester Rents, the Old Bailey annexe. Kevin Maxwell, 36, Ian Maxwell, 39, and a former ex-Maxwell aide, Larry Trachtenberg, 42, deny conspiracy to defraud pension funds.

Five arrested

Four security guards and a rickshaw driver were arrested in connection with the murder last week of James Skinner, a British tourist, in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, the Press Trust of India said.

Body found

Police are trying to identify a decomposed body found inside a submerged Volkswagen car at Shoreham-by-Sea harbour, West Sussex. The body and car are believed to have been in the water for months.

Sex case settled

Natasha Ford, 13, from Acocks Green, Birmingham, has won £100 compensation after claiming Raza newspapers sexually discriminated against her by refusing to give her a paperboy's round.

Sheep cleared

More than 30,000 sheep on 20 farms in Snowdonia have been released from "movement and slaughter" restrictions imposed after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. However, 220,000 are still affected.

Smashing sleep

A pensioner slept as a car went out of control and smashed into the roof of her house. Doris Allen, 74, of Stubbington, Hampshire, was woken by police after the accident. No one in the car was badly hurt.

Shepherd gives Muslim pledge

Shepherd and removed herds above to visit a mosque attached to the Al-Sadiq and Al-Hadith schools in Kilburn, north-west London. The Education Secretary met some of the 300 pupils, who follow the national curriculum and receive Muslim instruction. The Shia schools, which opened in 1991, will have their first GCSE candidates this year. The minister promised to consider fresh applications from Muslim schools to join the state system.



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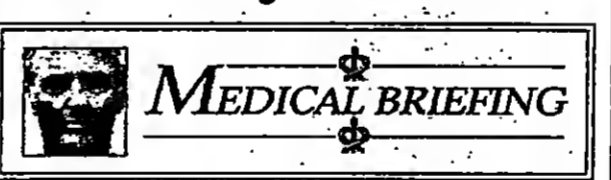
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Silent invader kills by stealth



A CAMPAIGN to alert the public to the dangers of carbon monoxide, a silent and odourless killer, is concentrating on warning householders of the need to keep gas fires and other slow combustion heaters in good repair and to maintain ventilation in living rooms.

The public already understands that in some rented accommodation new tenants need to cast a critical eye over any gas appliances. Also heaters in holiday accommodation abroad must be treated with care and a through draught maintained.

Carbon monoxide is formed when there is incomplete combustion of carbon fuel. Although North Sea gas is not in itself poisonous, it will give out carbon monoxide if any undetected fault in the gas appliance results in its incomplete burning.

Some solid fuel burners, if they have blocked flues, if the range leaks, or if there is poor ventilation in the room, can equally well kill somebody who is huddled over them for warmth. I have always regarded the kitchen range in my Norfolk cottage with some suspicion since I was told that one day, when the doors and windows to the kitchen had been shut, the previous tenant's Labrador had been found unconscious beside it.

The sources of carbon monoxide are legion — poisoning from car exhausts has replaced that provided by gas

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*A comparison of standard accounts from major High Street Banks on 6th January 1996. The interest rates quoted are gross (ie net before deduction of tax) and correct as of the date of going to press, but may vary. Interest is calculated daily and paid half yearly. Co-operative Bank plc, registered address, 1 Balcan Street, Manchester M2 4BZ.

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Campaign teams attack each other as contest for 2000 exhibition turns into slanging match

Millennium rivals bicker over tales of two cities

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A BATTLE to host the Millennium Exhibition in 2000 has degenerated into a slanging match. Supporters of an application from Greenwich have accused rivals at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham of starting a whispering campaign in the media and of spreading "horror stories" alleging there is toxic waste and pollution on the south London site.

The Greenwich Millennium Trust has counter-claimed that the NEC application wrongly includes more than £50 million from Birmingham City Council, which part-owns the NEC. A spokesman for the trust said: "The Millennium is paid from the public purse so, if council tax money is used in Birmingham, people from that city would be paying twice."

John Cole, marketing director of the NEC, accused Greenwich supporters of trying to whip up controversy to



Scott, front man in fight for Greenwich

benefit their own bid: "They are clearly getting edgy."

The Millennium Commission meets today to discuss which of the two cities is the most deserving of a £100 million National Lottery grant to get the year-long exhibition, which will emulate the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the Festival of Britain in 1951. The

winner is expected to be announced this month. The event is forecast to attract more than 15 million people, create thousands of jobs and bring at least £500 million of capital investment.

Greenwich claims historic and romantic advantages over Birmingham. American television companies planning millennium broadcasts have for the past year been trying to book the buildings that used to house the Royal Observatory. Andrew Parry, project co-ordinator, says: "The question of the best place should be decided on which will have the most national and international resonance with visitors."

A key point in the Greenwich plan will be the introduction of a river bus to transport visitors along the Thames. The site will also benefit from the new Jubilee Line extension to the Underground.

Birmingham claims better transport infrastructure and an experienced site. The NEC is co-owned by Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. John Cole, marketing director for the NEC, said: "There is a strong feeling that the event is about changing cultures and conventions and to welcoming in the new. To make the commitment to holding the Millennium Exhibition outside London would be a very significant symbol."

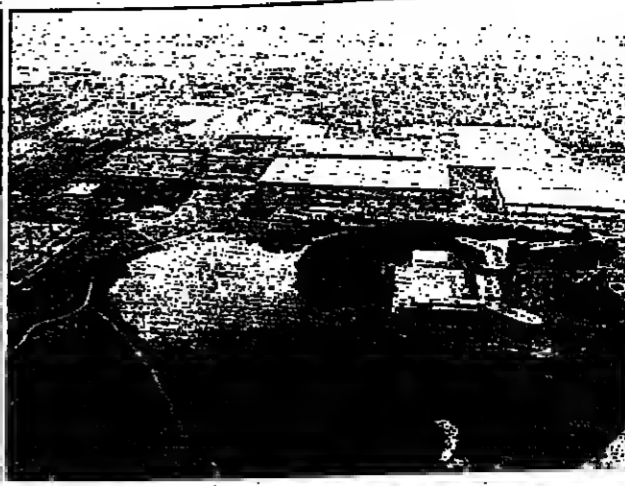
Each site is being backed by a commercial exhibition organiser, each sworn to silence about the precise details. As a front man, Greenwich has employed Sir Bob Scott, leader of Manchester's two failed Olympic Games bids and a successful bid for England to host the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

The NEC, the ninth biggest exhibition centre in Europe, claims the support of Britain's business leaders. According to an NOP poll for the centre, 60 per cent of marketing directors from the Times Top 100 companies believe the NEC would be ideal.

Leading article, page 17



NEC site, accused of "dirty tricks" after media was told that gasworks site, polluted by toxins, was unlikely to be cleaned in time for 2000.



Greenwich site, accused of "dirty tricks" after media was told that gasworks site, polluted by toxins, was unlikely to be cleaned in time for 2000.

□ Aim: to provide historic backdrop to celebrations, regenerate the Thames as a working river and revive Docklands commercially.

□ Sales pitch: traditional centre of world time.

□ Strengths: historic setting with landmarks such as Royal Naval College, National Maritime Museum and Cutty Sark. **Weaknesses:** site earmarked, formerly a gasworks (above), is not near historic centre. London has already received lion's share of lottery cash, with large grants to Royal Opera House and others.

□ Aim: to create an exhibition centre of global importance, big enough to host the world's largest trade fairs.

□ Sales pitch: the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) has a greenfield site and is more likely to be ready in time. The NEC has vast experience of hosting important shows.

□ Strengths: situated at the heart of the country, more than 30 million people living less than two hours away. **Weaknesses:** Birmingham has yet to establish itself as an independent tourist attraction. **□ What the NEC says about Greenwich:** to be built on

poisoned land. Terrible road, rail and air access. Nowhere to park coaches.

□ Who will run the exhibition at the NEC? The favoured operator is Imagination plc, which describes itself as a "multi-disciplinary communications consultancy". Clients include Lego and Walt Disney.

□ Who is backing it? Sir Norman Fowler, MP for Sutton Coldfield, and chairman of The Birmingham Post, and Sir Adrian Cadbury, a member of the Birmingham chocolate dynasty and a non-executive director of the NEC.

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Mormons ejected for fighting good fight

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO Mormon missionaries have been moved on by their Church after their Bible-bashing got out of hand. When the men tried to convert Tom and Bernie Casey, who are both lay preachers at their local parish church, a heated religious debate turned into a scuffle.

Mrs Casey claims she was left with a split lip and suffered abusive language. The Mormon Church said last night that two missionaries, aged 20 and 19, had been moved from the area as a result.

Mrs Casey, of Clayton, near Preston, Lancashire, said: "It was quite a strong discussion with them getting their books out to try and prove their points. The duo became loud-mouthed and offensive when we refused to accept some of the tenets of their faith. We questioned some beliefs they hold and that is when the scuffle broke out."

A spokesman for the Mormon Church, in Lancashire, said: "These missionaries have not shown the high standards we demand of them. We apologise for what happened. Our missionaries, however, claim they only defended themselves."

Posters for alcoholic lemonade criticised

By A STAFF REPORTER

A POSTER campaign for the alcoholic lemonade Hooper's Hooch was criticised yesterday as likely to appeal to under-age drinkers.

Four members of the public and Nigel Griffiths, the Labour consumer affairs spokesman, had complained to the Advertising Standards Authority over the posters. One advertisement featured a grinning lemon character holding a bottle of Hooper's Hooch inside a warning triangle with the headline: "Warning, Extreme Refreshment Alc 4.7%." Others featured the headline: "Warning, One Taste And You're Hooched."

The makers of Hooch, Bass Brewers, had told the authority that the advertisements were designed for 18 to 35-year-olds and would not promote under-age drinking. But in upholding the complaints, the authority said it considered that "the lemon character was likely to appeal to people under 18 in a way that would encourage them to drink alcohol."

Mr Griffiths hailed the ruling and said that other drinks, such as Love, Bye and Ravens, infringed advertising guidelines by appealing to children.

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And you could go to Michael Tippett's 1955 masterpiece, *The Midsummer Marriage*, conducted by David Syrus on January 27, and by Bernard Haitink on February 8.

A full list of participating theatres appeared in *The Times* on Saturday and Monday, as well as the first two tokens. Collect five tokens and telephone the booking office after Thursday, January 18, stating you are using *The Times* ticket token offer. Tickets will not be issued until the tokens are presented. At theatres marked with an * you can go to more than one show, buying one full price ticket and getting another for 30p.

THE TIMES
30p
THEATRE TICKETS
TOKEN 4

سكوا من الأمل

US warning

India told nuclear test would bring cuts in aid

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

AMERICA, detecting signs that India may be preparing to conduct a nuclear test, has warned Delhi that economic benefits from the United States will be frozen if any such explosion takes place.

The private message, delivered by officials including Frank Wisner, the American Ambassador, came after American intelligence reported that India may be moving closer to a test.

The prospect of economic exclusion appeared to make little difference last night when India announced that it would deploy the medium-range Prithvi missile, a weapon Western experts fear would be used to carry nuclear warheads against Pakistan.

In the first use of a little-known American statute, the Glenn Amendment, America emphasised to the Narasimha Rao Government its requirement to cut off all economic aid, military aid, credits, bank loans and export licences.

Most important for India, the law also dictates that the United States must oppose World Bank loans and other international means of lending to the offending country.

The loss of such benefits would cost Delhi billions. It borrows about \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) a year from the World Bank and receives \$173 million annually in economic aid from Washington.

The curb on export licences means, in theory, India would be unable to buy even a

computer from America. India, the third largest recipient of World Bank loans after China and Mexico, could easily face pariah status.

America, as the leading shareholder in the international organisation, has the greatest number of votes in the board's approval of foreign loans and would certainly be supported in its banishment of India by Japan and Germany.

The bank's second and third leading shareholders, which oppose nuclear testing.

Last year, Mr Rao suspended a test launch of the Prithvi before visiting the United States, on the basis that it would have sent mixed signals to Washington. But he has been under pressure from the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party to take a more muscular approach before elections planned for April.

India has complained that American policy favours the nuclear powers and discriminates against others. Mr Rao has argued that the five should dismantle their nuclear arsenals before any worldwide test ban is agreed.

India denies that it is planning a nuclear test and says the United States misread satellite photographs of troop movements. The Government is adamant that it will not give up the nuclear option, primarily because of the perceived nuclear threat from Pakistan.



Russian soldiers fire their heavy artillery at the village of Pervomayskoye during the second day of intense fighting against Chechen rebels

Battle of blood and propaganda

FROM CARLOTTA GALL OUTSIDE PERVOMAISKOYE, THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FIGHTING carried on into a second day over the village of Pervomayskoye yesterday, although President Yeltsin had promised the Russian assault would be over by Monday night.

Field-guns rained shells on the houses, where about 200 fighters and about 100 hostages were said to be sheltering. With each charge the gunners, one of whom worked bare-chested in the bitter cold, turned away with their fingers in their ears. The attack looked more like a classical military assault than an operation to free hostages. The Russian authorities said that 29 of an estimated 116 hostages in the village had been freed and that 100 Chechen fighters had been killed. They put their own losses at six dead. Those figures could not be confirmed. The longer the fight continues, the more embarrassing it promises to be for President Yeltsin.

The combatants were hampered by thick cloud cover, which prevented helicopter gunships from flying so many raids on Monday. The rebels kept up their fierce resistance with

heavy machineguns and mortars. Returning Russian soldiers said they had been fighting house to house inside the village.

Their defences are extremely well organised," Major General Aleksandr Mikhailov, the Russian intelligence spokesman, said. "They have dug deep trenches that connect to the houses," he said, adding that there were many snipers.

Hostages who had somehow escaped from the maelstrom had spent the night caked in mud without heat in a concrete building in the nearby village of Sovetskoye. As they came out to a water pump in the yard, guards, who clearly had instructions not to let hostages speak to reporters, pushed journalists away.

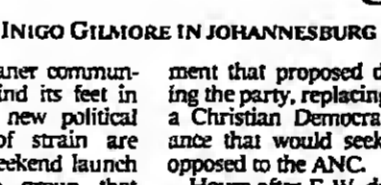
While the fighting continued, the Russian and Chechen propaganda machines waged a battle to win the ear of the media. Independent information about events in Pervomayskoye has been scarce because reporters have been prevented from getting close to the village. For the media, this has

meant a difficult task sifting through a barrage of propaganda to find the truth.

Many reporters have been wary about official reports from Chechnya since the end of 1994, when Moscow denied for days it had anything to do with air raids on the rebel region. For their part, the Chechen separatists have a record of inflating casualty figures inflicted on the Russians and of exaggerating their own military gains.

The result is that more than 30 hours after the Russians began their assault, it was hard to shed light on what was going on in the village. On Monday, Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said the attack started after the "Lone Wolf" group led by Salman Raduyev had killed a group of elders from the region of Dagestan who came to negotiate. The FSB said the rebels also killed six policemen they held hostage, hanging two of them, while President Yeltsin said the gunmen had received an order from separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev to start shooting their hostages.

Raduyev swore his fighters had killed nobody. By yesterday afternoon there was no confirmation about the massacre of the elders and a policeman hostage who was freed said none of his colleagues had been killed. Casualty figures given by both sides have differed greatly. Russia says it has killed a total of 250 Chechens with the loss of six servicemen, while Chechnya claims Russia has lost more than 100 and just eight of its own men.



First Lady ready to face her Congress accusers

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON said yesterday that she would consider giving evidence voluntarily to congressional investigators if that would end the controversy that has been swirling around her for the past two weeks.

Such an appearance by a First Lady would be unprecedented and as painful as "having your teeth drilled", Mrs Clinton said. "If that is the kind of co-operation that is needed to end this matter, I am more than willing to do whatever it takes," she added.

Were Mrs Clinton to press her offer it would put her Republican enemies on the spot. She is a brilliant public performer who would be very hard to pin down and if they questioned her too aggressively, they could face a public backlash.

Yesterday Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, summoned Carolyn Huber, a White House aide, in front of a grand jury to explain her mysterious discovery on January 4 of records detailing Mrs Clinton's legal work for Madison Guaranty, the bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair. Mr Starr had subpoenaed those records two years ago.

The Senate Whitewater committee meanwhile was aggressively questioning three past or present White House lawyers about a meeting on Whitewater they attended in November 1993.

One of the lawyers, William Kennedy, took notes which the committee obtained last month after threatening to take President Clinton to court. Republicans claimed an ambiguous line reading "Vacuum Rose law files" showed the White House sought to remove or destroy evidence of Mrs Clinton's connections with Madison, but Mr Kennedy vigorously contested that charge.

The Senate Whitewater committee has decided to continue its investigations beyond its February 29 deadline, meaning they will last well into the presidential election campaign.

Afrikaners bicker as apartheid party seeks fresh image

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

AS THE Afrikaner community battles to find its feet in South Africa's new political order, signs of strain are evident. The weekend launch of a pressure group that intends to unite Afrikaners could not have been more inauspicious. The rally was marred by scuffles after a group of right-wingers tried to set fire to the country's flag.

Backed by the former police commissioner, Johan van der Merwe, the Foundation for Equality Before the Law was formed in response to the arrest and pending prosecution of Magnus Malan, a former Defence Minister, and other apartheid-era security chiefs. It aims to fight for the restoration of their language and culture. Of particular concern is the marginalising of Afrikaners.

There is also frustration at the former ruling National Party's inability to influence African National Congress decisions and to protect Afrikaner interests. The nationalists are in disarray over how best to adapt. This was illustrated by the rumpus surrounding an Afrikaans Sunday newspaper report, which said that the party was about to dissolve.

Rappart disclosed a document that proposed disbanding the party, replacing it with a Christian Democratic Alliance that would seek others opposed to the ANC.

Election pledge by new leader after Sierra Leone coup

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE head of the military Government in Sierra Leone, Captain Valentine Strasser, has been overthrown in a coup a month before scheduled elections to return the country to democracy, Captain Julius Maada Bio, his deputy, who has assumed power, has promised to stick to the election timetable.

State radio said that Captain Strasser, who was the youngest ruler in the world when he gained power in 1992 at the age of 26, had fled the country. The announcement was made by Lieutenant-Colonel Karifa Kargbo, the director of defence information.

The organisation accused Captain Strasser, the head of the National Provincial Ruling Council, of trying to force it to pass decrees allowing him to stay in power. However, aides close to Mr Bio, 33, said he opposed holding an election while the civil war was going on. Under election law, Captain Strasser, 30, was still too young to be a candidate.

Britain yesterday expressed hopes that the elections would be held on time. Sierra Leone, one of three West African Commonwealth countries under military government, was criticised at the Commonwealth summit last year for its lack of democracy, but there were hopes that the impending vote, after four years of military rule, would bring the country greater stability.

The country, one of the world's ten poorest, has been increasingly tormented since 1991 by an uprising in the rural areas, spearheaded by dissident troops who have returned from peacekeeping operations in Liberia.

Last year they launched a series of attacks on Western-owned mines in the south-east and held a number of Europeans and Britons hostage. An estimated 10,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

Strasser, accused of trying to keep power

Study blames gay urge on big brother

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

HOMOSEXUALITY is more common among men who have older brothers, according to an American study. The reason may be biological or it may simply be that the treatment meted out to younger siblings in childhood influences their sexual orientation.

In a study of more than 600 middle-aged men, of whom half were gay, the rate of homosexuality rose with each additional older brother. In the sample, the rate of homosexuality among men who do not have older brothers fell to 45 per cent. For those who have one older brother it rose to 53 per cent, and 64 per cent for men who have two. Five of the seven men in the sample group who have four or more older brothers were

homosexual. The older brothers need not be alive, but people with half-brothers were not included in the test.

The report, published in the American Journal of Psychiatry, was based on research by Ray Blanchard, the head of clinical senology at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto. Mr Blanchard offered yesterday a biological explanation. "The foetus has no idea of its birth order," he said. "But the mother's body may be able to tell how many sons she has carried." He suggested that the mother's immune system somehow reacted in a way that altered the focusses of later sons.

Mr Blanchard added that "there will no doubt be socio-biological theories that nature wants to cut down the competition for mates".

Colleagues at academic conferences had also suggested that the survey results may indicate an effect of the normal big brother-little brother relationships, or the way that parents subconsciously react to sons, or even of early sex games between children. "These kinds of explanations are really little more than people fishing around for an alternative to the biological reason," Mr Blanchard said. Previous studies have claimed to prove that gay men tend to be older siblings, but Mr Blanchard's work is thought to be the first to concentrate solely on brothers.

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Bush and Major rejected chance to humiliate Iraq

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMAL surrender of Iraqi forces after the success of the United States-led coalition campaign in 1991 was ruled out by former President Bush and John Major because they agreed it would be wrong to humiliate the Iraqi people.

The political decision, taken after a telephone call between Mr Bush and Mr Major as the coalition ground forces overran all Iraqi opposition, led a few days later to the low-key ceasefire in a tent at Safwan Air Base in southern Iraq.

The "ad hoc" ceasefire, attended by two senior Iraqi generals but no representative from the Baath ruling party, has been strongly criticised by Baroness Thatcher and other political figures — five years

New York: Iraq was reported ready to discuss the Security Council's resolution allowing limited oil sales in exchange for humanitarian goods, non-aligned diplomats said. Iraq has been crippled by sanctions since it invaded Kuwait in 1990. (Reuters)

after the Gulf War began — as one of the key elements that helped Saddam Hussein to survive as Iraq's President.

According to senior American diplomatic sources, Mr Bush, with the agreement of Mr Major, was opposed to the word "surrender" appearing in any formal ceremony because there was the expectation that the Iraqi people would rise up against their

leader within a matter of months after the defeat. "They did not want to humiliate the very people whom they were counting on to remove Saddam from power after the Iraqi defeat," a source said.

It was also felt that Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states would not support the demand for a formal surrender.

In all the talks between Washington and London, before and during the campaign, nobody considered how a ceasefire ceremony should be held or who should attend it, so as to underline to the Arab world, in particular, that Saddam had been defeated.

Leading up to the air campaign on the night of January 16 and 17, 1991, four key officials from London travelled frequently to Washington to agree on the political objectives of the war. One of the key issues discussed there was whether the forces should march on to Baghdad. The team from London made clear the British Government was opposed to the idea.

Yesterday General Norman Schwarzkopf, the American commander of the coalition forces in the Gulf, said there was "never, ever, a plan to go to Baghdad. He was speaking on BBC Radio in response to Mr Bush's admission on US television that he "miscalculated" Saddam's staying power at the end of the war.

The lack of any contingency planning for a formal ceasefire ceremony was underlined when General Schwarzkopf was given just 48 hours to make the arrangements. Safwan was selected as the most convenient site and two Iraqi generals arrived at the tent to agree the ceasefire.

General Schwarzkopf said yesterday that arranging a formal and symbolic surrender might have helped to remove Saddam from power but the Arab mentality made such a thing very unlikely. "Unless we had had President Bush and John Major at that table, I do not think we ever would have got Saddam to sit at that table. It just would not have happened," he said.

Letters, page 17

'Britons trained Saddam guards'

By OLIVER AUGUST

FIVE retired SAS sergeants went to Iraq in 1978 to teach President Saddam Hussein's bodyguards how to protect him against sophisticated assassination attempts, according to a writer.

Martin Arostegui, who interviewed one of the SAS men, said that the British team showed Saddam's bodyguards how to eliminate would-be assassins in crowded streets without killing dozens of bystanders. They were trained in "killing villages" where dummy assassins are suddenly inflated along an assault course.

The difficulty in trying to capture Saddam during the Gulf War because of this training has been acknowledged by George Bush, the former American President.

In an interview to be shown on American television next week, Mr Bush said: "There we would be, downtown Baghdad, America occupying an Arab land, searching for this brutal dictator who had

the best security in the world, involved in an urban guerrilla war."

On the SAS men's advice, Saddam redesigned the flow of traffic in Baghdad to improve his security. Streets along which he travelled regularly had central dividing walls removed to allow his car to make a U-turn in the event of an ambush.

Mr Arostegui, who is the author of *Twilight Warriors*, a history of special forces, said: "They needed to be schooled in the basics to effectively protect their man when he came out among his people."

American special forces in the Gulf also told Mr Arostegui that Abu Abbas, one of the world's most wanted terrorists, was part of Saddam's force in Kuwait and escaped capture by them at the end of the Gulf War. US Navy Seals were tipped off by the Kuwaiti resistance and tried to find Abu Abbas among the fleeing Iraqi Army, but failed to catch him.



Set at infinity: galaxies and stars four billion times dimmer than can be observed with the naked eye, are pictured by the Hubble telescope

Hubble discovers a galaxy of galaxies

By NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

HUNDREDS of galaxies, some dating back to the universe's infancy, have been detected by the Hubble space telescope.

Aimed at an empty piece of sky in the direction of the Plough and instructed to gather light continuously for ten days over Christmas, the telescope has revealed stars and galaxies four billion times dimmer than those that can be seen with the naked eye.

Besides the classical spiral and elliptical galaxies, a bewildering array of different shapes and colours have been seen. At least 1,500 galaxies at various stages of

evolution appear in the pictures, astronomers from the Space Telescope Science Institute have told the American Astronomical Society meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

"We are clearly seeing some of the galaxies as they were more than ten billion years ago, in the process of formation," said Dr Robert Williams, director of the institute. "In archaeological terms it is equivalent to finding a royal city, but we don't have the dates yet. We don't know if we are seeing the most distant objects or not."

The target at which the telescope's deep field camera was pointed was very small — "about the size of a large

grain of sand held at arm's length," said Dr Williams. To a ground-based telescope, the area is basically an empty piece of sky. In the ten days from December 18 to 28, astronomers took 342 frames, 276 of which have been processed into a single image of deep space.

Though the area photographed is small, it is believed to be representative of a typical distribution of galaxies in space because the universe, statistically, looks the same in all directions. Separate images were taken in blue, red and infra-red light and combined to produce a "true-colour" view.

From the colours of the galaxies in the image, astronomers should be able to infer

the age, distance, and composition of the galaxies. Bluer objects either contain young stars or are closer, while redder objects contain older stars, or are further away.

The image was compared with a core sample of the Earth, which would contain many layers of material laid

down over millions of years. In the Hubble image, stars and galaxies are seen ranging further and further into the universe and more and more distant in time. Some could be galaxies formed within a billion years of the Big Bang, but Dr Williams said it would take detailed analysis to be sure.

"It's like looking down a long tube and seeing all these galaxies along the line of sight," said Dr Mark Dickinson, a member of the team. "The past 10 days have been an unbelievable experience."

A key question the study may answer is how galaxies form. Astronomers do not understand how billions of stars in each galaxy come together to form a cluster.



Peking bars media from selling 'slanderous' economic reports

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA ruled yesterday that foreign news organisations' economic reporting must be regulated by the Communist Party's Xinhua news agency.

A Cabinet edict, citing national security, threatened punishment for news organisations with permission to sell economic information within China whose information "slanders" China or harms its national interests. It forbids Chinese customers from buying economic information from foreign organisations and allows Xinhua to determine subscription rates.

The crackdown triggered alarm bells in Hong Kong,

whose economy is heavily dependent on the free flow of information.

The proclamation says the regulations are intended to "safeguard the nation's sovereignty, protect the legal rights and interests of domestic users of economic information and promote the healthy development of our country's economic information industry".

Xinhua is empowered to "manage" foreign news agencies which must register within three months. There are two reasons for the newest regulations on foreign media operating inside China, which are tightly monitored. The first is

political. Peking has been anxious about foreign news penetrating China and from time to time jams electronic media or ejects particular journalists.

Overseas journalists must register with the Foreign Ministry, which assigns them their staff, including their maids, all of whom have security training. The journalists are forbidden to visit most other parts of China without official permission and if that is given, an official "minder" is usually assigned to the trip as well.

Equally political is the regime's dislike of news that conflicts with the official ver-

sion which is usually "good", while the foreign output may be pessimistic or at least balanced. Foreign journalists often obtain information which conflicts with the orthodox stories and when that is published abroad it is frequently relayed back into China via the BBC and the Voice of America.

There is an economic reason as well for the ban: Chinese official sources sell news to domestic customers. These are increasingly more willing to obtain foreign information which in China is almost always believed to be more accurate.

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Woman spared fatal injection

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

BORN on her grandmother's kitchen table to parents who soon would abandon her to a childhood of sexual abuse and alcoholism, Guinevere Garcia was perhaps destined for an infamous end.

That was to have come today when the 37-year-old faced a lethal concoction of drugs at Statesville Correctional Centre near Joliet to become the first woman executed in Illinois since 1938 and only the second in America since capital punishment was restored in 1976.

But Jim Edgar, the Governor of Illinois who has sent killers such as John Wayne Gacy to their deaths, took pity on Garcia yesterday after receiving hundreds of requests for clemency, including a high-profile demand from Bianca Jagger in her capacity as an Amnesty International official.

"The fact that Guinevere Garcia is a woman has not influenced my decision... She should never be free again," Mr Edgar said in a statement. "but I have concluded that the punishment decreed for her was not typical. Horrible as was her crime, it is an offence



Garcia: wanted to be executed for killing

comparable to those that the judges and jurors have determined over and over again should not be punishable by death.

The decision will have left the prisoner furious as she sat on Death Row at Dwight Women's State Prison in Chicago yesterday. Garcia, a teenage mother and prostitute who shot dead her husband, George, in 1991, had pleaded to be killed by state authorities.

Her lawyer had contended that the shooting had taken place while Mr Garcia was beating his wife.

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'Charles's success at Gordonstoun came as a surprise to his parents'

Elizabeth's story



Today we continue our exclusive serialisation of *Elizabeth*, revealing how the Queen's devotion to duty left its mark on Charles... plus a look at the man whose job is tightening the royal purse-strings



TOMORROW

The Queen as a mother-in-law, and how she is attempting to deal with the many and complex marriage problems in her turbulent family

'You called me darling!' said Charles, amazed

It is terrible for any parent to be accused publicly of being a bad mother or father. Elizabeth had done her best in a difficult situation — to be a mother and a head of state, head of the Commonwealth and head of a household is a unique experience. She has had to put her job first, and the reason why she has been so successful at it is not only because she enjoys it, but also because she is a dedicated, self-contained personality. Charles may have felt excluded from areas of his mother's life and subject to the rigorous standards expected of the heir to the Throne. But, except at boarding school, he had been surrounded by love from his mother and his grandmother, not to mention his mother's courtiers such as Lady Susan Hussey and Martin Charteris, who were extremely fond of him. The fact that there was a certain amount of truth in Charles's self-pitying account of his childhood in the Jonathan Dimbleby television documentary, in 1994, did not excuse it. Elizabeth is good with small children but not with adults. She is not a hugger or a communicator on a personal level. Out of consideration for her adored husband in his difficult position as consort, she overcompensated by allowing him free rein in the upbringing of his son. But the fact that she is the Queen sets her apart from everyone, even her own children. Charles was a victim of his royal birthright. He seems unwilling to accept, as his mother has, that there is a price to pay for privilege — and the greater the privilege, the higher the price. Charles's siblings, Anne, Andrew and Edward, were outraged by the Dimbleby documentary and told him so. Outwardly, Elizabeth put a brave face upon it. No one seeing her on her first state

ELIZABETH AND CHARLES

visit to Moscow in October 1994 could have thought her less than delighted to be there. Only those who knew her well could diagnose how wounded she felt.

In the 1960s, when Anne and Charles were teenagers and Andrew and Edward were still young children, Elizabeth seemed to have found a satisfactory balance between the demands of her work and her children. Prince Charles went on record as saying that he thought of his family as "very special people".



Strained relations: Charles and the Queen at the Derby

"I've never wanted to get away from home," he said. "We happen to be a very close-knit family. I am happier at home with my family than anywhere else." Later, as his private life turned spectacularly and publicly sour, he blamed his mother's remoteness and his father's impatient strictness for the disaster. The Prince protested too much, but it is a fair observation that, as one relation has said: "Elizabeth was noticeably more relaxed with her two young children, Andrew and Edward, than she was with him. This was especially true with Andrew, an uncomplicated, rumbustious child

who was her favourite. She began to feel that she ought to do more about the children when Andrew was born."

Elizabeth loved Charles and he loved her. But he was in awe of her, and she was undemonstrative in her affection. One courtier remembered being in the room when Charles came to say good night to his mother as she was working on her papers. After he had kissed her good night, he was on his way out when Elizabeth said absent-mindedly: "Goodnight darling."

Elizabeth, her days and often also her evenings occupied with unavoidable routine, never took the initiative in inviting her children's confidences. Although she was their mother, she was still the Queen and that invisible aura of distance surrounded her. She could laugh, joke, mimic when she felt relaxed. But she was still self-contained and reserved, finding it impossible to discuss emotional issues. The relationship with her father was equally easy — in many ways Anne fulfilled the son's role to him, but without the underlying element of male competitiveness.

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Gordonstoun, this time driving there himself with his father sitting in the back, underlining his progress from boyhood to being an adult. He was made "guardian" of the school, a rather watered-down Gordonstoun version of head boy.

His success came as a surprise to his parents. Elizabeth had had doubts whether he would even make captain of his house, let alone head of the school.

Elizabeth's relationship with Anne was an exceptionally easy one, as her own relationship with her mother had been. Since she had been able to accommodate her husband's forceful personality, she had few problems with her daughter, who was in many ways almost his clone. There was none of the conflict that characterises many mother-daughter relationships. There was mutual admiration and respect for each other's abilities and shared interests.

Like her mother and, to a lesser extent, her father, Anne had a passion for horses. Charles later claimed that he often felt left out at home when his mother, father and sister discussed the finer points of equitation or breeding, and that they laughed at him when he made some elementary mistake in the subject. "Oh, Anne's so practical," Elizabeth would say delightedly when one of the dogs was hurt. "She always knows what to do."

They even owned the same dogs. Anne had a black Labrador and a corgi — a male refugee from the royal pack, which was exclusively female. The relationship with her father was equally easy — in many ways Anne fulfilled the son's role to him, but without the underlying element of male competitiveness.

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The camera never lies: in this family portrait, Charles's troubled expression is in marked contrast to Anne's relaxed smile

one of her former private secretaries died, she could not bring herself to write to his widow, although the man had served her loyally for many years. It was not callousness but an inability to express, and an unwillingness to face up to, deep emotion. Elizabeth's children (and other people) did not confide in her, partly because she was the Queen and partly because of a reluctance to break through her reserve. She herself would sometimes complain that her children "never talked to" her, seemingly not realising that perhaps the initiative could lie with her. Edited extracts from *Elizabeth, A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen*, to be published by William Heinemann on February 5, £20. © Sarah Bradford 1996

Book offer

Copies of *Elizabeth* can be bought by readers of *The Times* at a special price of £15 each (post and package free) from Reed Book Services, PO Box 5, Rushden, Northants NN10 6XJ (01933 414000). Cross cheques and make payable to Reed Books Services Ltd, with name and full address on the back, quoting reference K122. Allow up to 28 days for delivery from February 5.



Trouble upstairs, downstairs

Michael Charles Gerrard Peat, aged 46, educated at Eton and Trinity College, Oxford, with an MBA from the top European business school INSEAD, and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, has a background in accountancy as a partner from 1972 to 1993 in KPMG Peat Marwick, the firm founded by his father. He has been Director of Finance and Property Services (an entirely new Household title created specifically for him) since 1990, but began his scrutiny of the Royal Household in 1986, when he was called in by the new Lord Chamberlain, the 13th Earl of Airli. Airli was appointed to the top Palace job in 1984 after a City career principally in merchant banking. Airli, tall, slim and immaculate, is the grandson of the famous Mabel, Countess of Airli. Queen Mary's lady-in-waiting and friend who acted

RUNNING THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD

as Cupid to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and whose memoirs, *Thatched with Gold*, predated Crawfie and were not entirely approved of in court circles. His wife, Virginia, is lady-in-waiting to the Queen. Airli, through his "hands-on" approach to his job and his patronage of Peat, is far and away the most influential member of the Household. "Lord Maclean [the previous Lord Chamberlain], one member of the staff said plaintively, "used to leave us alone." Peat lives in Kensington Palace, in one half of an apartment formerly occupied



Michael Peat: Palace apartment and a bonus

total for the redecoration of this apartment and one for Peat's deputy next door was reputed to be £1 million. Michael Peat, it was announced in May 1995, had been paid a £13,000 bonus on top of his £116,000 salary (already high by Household standards). Royal officials have stated that his economies will make savings of more than £50 million by the end of the century in the running of the Household and in maintaining the palaces. Peat's earnings did not go down well with chambermaids in the Royal Household, whose wages had actually been reduced in his

reforms. The domestic staff have resented the clerical employees getting higher wages than they do, and feel that performance-related pay is unfair and impossible in the circumstances of their own employment. The official response is that change was long overdue and in any case is always unpopular. That is true, but one could question the wisdom of damaging an ethos built up over the years: the sense of being a community and of belonging to a family which royal service had engendered. Elizabeth is a traditionalist; although she has agreed to the reforms, people question how much she is now aware of what is going on. Memorandums are not a substitute for personal contact and there is little consultation between the personnel services and senior staff when it comes to recruitment.

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Menswear that means business



LEFT: Silver suit, £520; white shirt, £69; gray/cream stripe tie, £45, Boss; black leather lace-up shoes, £155, Russell & Bromley, 24-26 New Bond Street, W1; selected branches nationwide.

CENTRE: Beige check suit, £501; beige shirt, £69; beige/red/blue tie, £40, Hugo; black nylon jacket, £250, Boss.

RIGHT: Black single-breasted jacket, high-buttoned waistcoat and trousers sold as suit, £651; black knitted polo shirt, £97; Boss.

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Hugo Boss has moved away from
its Wall Street image to suit
the independent man of the 1990s

When a designer or a label so succinctly sums up a moment, what happens when the rest of the world eventually moves on? This was the problem facing Hugo Boss, the German menswear company whose slick tailoring was the business for a zillion would-be Gordon Gekkos in the 1980s. Together with Armani, Hugo Boss virtually cut the pattern of the late 1980s power suit. David Bradshaw, fashion director at *Arena* magazine, says, "At a time when wearing Hugo Boss was like driving a BMW and Wall Street was hip, its advertising campaign predicted that 'style would never go out of fashion'. This may be so but, after the Big Bang, Hugo Boss definitely did."

The company's image was stuck in a groove and had become seriously ungroovy. In 1993 Dr Peter Littmann, the new president of the company, proudly unveiled the new masterplan, a relaunch which split the original label into three individual brands: Hugo, a younger fashion-conscious line; Baldessarini, featuring exclusive designs; and Boss, concentrating on more traditional business styles.

By expanding the range and repackaging the product into specific target groups the company could reach a wider clientele, while maintaining its prized original customer. Identifying the need for a new look, the men in suits at Hugo Boss enlisted the help of big-name photographers Richard Avedon and Jurgen Teller, along with Fabrice Baron, creative director of *Harper's Bazaar*. The resulting edgy advertising pictures, which were more concerned with creating the right mood than with showing much of the merchandise, struck the right note.

"The launch of the Hugo line and the excellent advertising campaign has given the company a new, younger face," Bradshaw says. This weekend Hugo Boss

Fashion
journalist of
the year



IAIN R. WEBB

marks its successful comeback by opening its first store in Britain in Regent Street, London, exclusively stocking the Boss line. The UK is the largest international market for Hugo Boss. In 1994 retail turnover in Britain was £15.5 million. In the first half of 1995 the UK sales rose by 21.6 per cent.

"At the moment Hugo and Boss are the most powerful brands of menswear clothing in the world," says Werner Baldessarini, design director at Hugo Boss and the namesake of one of the lines. "With our three brands we cover the spectrum of men's tastes and requirements."

Certainly the sheer diversity of merchandise ensures that a man can tailor the collections to his own needs. "The values of the 1980s have changed in the 1990s. Today's lifestyle is characterised by more restraint, greater emphasis on private lives and more individual independence," says Baldessarini. "All this is reflected in style and fashion." And, of course, in the wardrobe of the Hugo Boss man.



Chocolate-brown three-piece suit, £569, Hugo; black/cream pin-stripe shirt, £103, Boss; brown nylon parka, £229, Hugo. All clothes by Hugo Boss. Boss, 184 Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 7919; stockist inquiries 0171-408 0223).

Photographs by ROD NISSEN-PETZER. Grooming by James Dodds

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First Lady ready to face her Congress accusers



HAPPY HABITAT

SIR Terence Conran, that giant of international design, is compared to those English amateurs of the 18th century who took a Grand Tour under the pretext of culture, when they yearned only to flee the foggy shores of Albion for the warmth of the southern sun. Habitat types are distinguished "explorers" who use Peter Mayle's *Toujours Provence* as their guidebook to the art of living. These English Europhiles find harmony in the simple objects of ordinary life: old pastis pitchers, glazed earthenware crockery, tin coffee pots, rustic dressers and slip-covered armchairs. Functional simplicity, but nothing too ascetic, is the motto. They often flatter themselves about their little wine cellar, and gaily practise the art of oenology between Saint-Remy-de-Provence and Butler's Wharf. The kitchen is their true living room; cooking lovingly is their hobby. Quite at ease in their era, the Happy Habitats hate extremes like total modernism or stale traditionalism.

Our little houses of horrors

Christian Lacroix has published a guide which reveals much of modern interior design in all its true ghastliness, reports Kate Muir

The rich, famous and fashionable are curling with embarrassment over a wickily acid guide to the excesses of modern design compiled by the couturier Christian Lacroix. *Styles d'aujourd'hui* lampoons the past 30 years of "interior magazines and their culture of narcissism".

It has been published in Paris, where it is virtually unavailable since dinner parties throughout the city are dedicated to spotting Lacroix's victims, but most of its caricatures could equally be found in London.

Many of them are horribly close to home — every home — like over-rosed "Colefax and Fowler" and "Happy Habitat" as well as the "Zen Minimalism".

In the "Happy Habitat" analysis, Sir Terence Conran is compared to an English aristocrat on the Grand Tour who pretends to a serious cultural interest while really being interested only in lounging in the sun.

And the "King of Couture" section (aimed at Karl Lagerfeld, of Chanel, perhaps?) shows a room draped, chandeliered and gilded. The authors note that "a sort of aristocracy of the rag trade" has developed, with fabulous elegance, trailing behind it top models and beautiful people, a society dedicated to the superfluous. "It is the world as a temporary showroom."

The British designers Colefax and Fowler are taken to task for their "irrational passion for Marie Antoinette" and the eventual, horrible abuses of the Colefax and Fowler look. "The result is chintz with a huge motif of roses for vicarages in Kent... nothing is more fragile than this mix of English country

house and French good taste, tempered by Italian tones." But eventually, the over-use of the patterns has resulted instead in "Germanic rigour".

Even the plain loft does not escape ridicule. Natural brick, industrial features and modern paintings have all become terribly middle-class.

Cruel dissection of other people's taste is a national pastime, particularly in Britain. In the 1950s and 1960s Osbert Lancaster, of the *Daily Express*, invented descriptions of houses such as "Stockbrokers' Tudor", "Bypass Variegated" and "Wimbledon Transitional". Lacroix and his collaborator, Patrick Mauries, say their book is in part a homage to Lancaster, and an updating of his work: "Certain old-style English people cherish his memory, but they will always be too few."

Now the British interior guru Stephen Bayley, who founded the Design Museum, is planning to write a similarly wicked British encyclopaedia, with provisional labels such as "Jewish Renaissance", "Early Horrible", "Neo Provence" and "Women's Guardian".

Bayley believes the subject to be of great cultural significance: "Ever since Prince Albert installed taran linoleum in Balmoral, interior design has been a poorly revealing gauge of taste."

But he disagrees with the Lacroix-Mauries theory that decorating is a French subject. He claims interior design was invented at the turn of the century by an American named Elsie de Wolfe. "She was the person who introduced new American money to old French furniture. When she saw the Parthenon she said: 'It's beige! My colour!'"



NEO-BAROQUE

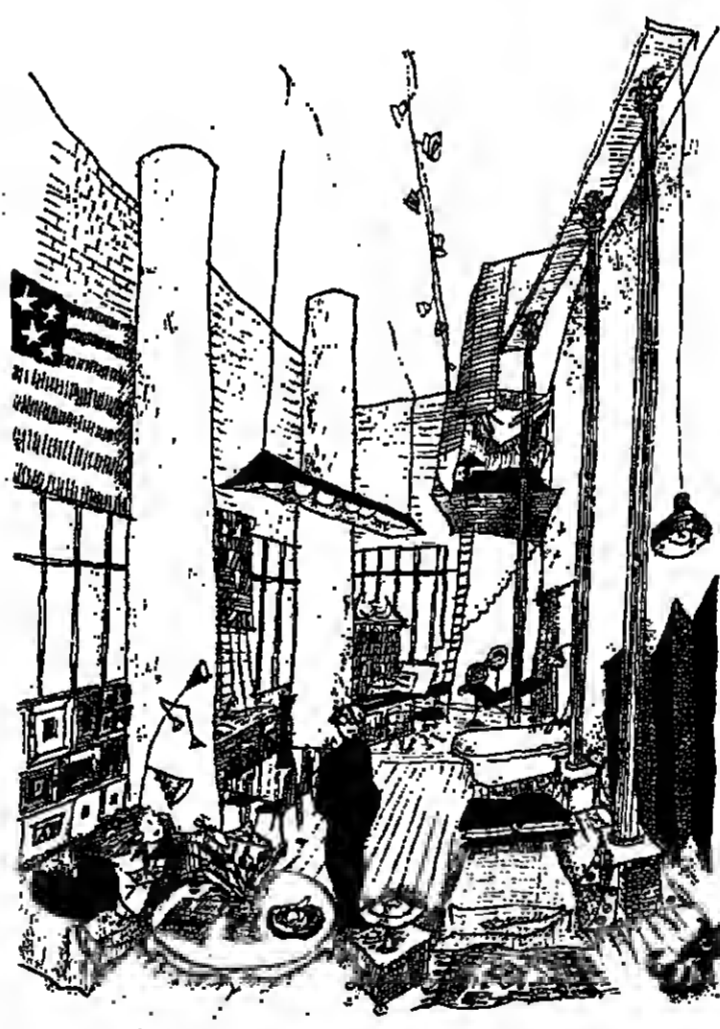
THE Neo-Baroque style dates back to the mid-1930s, when the French millionaire Charles de Beistegui commissioned an octagonal apartment from the minimalist architect Corbusier, and then proceeded to fill it with pompous candelabras, fancy crystal, Baroque Venetian furniture and Napoleon III pouffes all intended to infuriate Corbusier. The resulting bizarre contradiction in terms became famous since it expressed the first wave of rejection of Modernism. This anti-Modernism had a resurgence everywhere 50 years later, pioneered by ordinary people who remained against its ascetic style. Neo-Baroque signals the triumphal return of ornament: grainy metals and black-painted wood are replaced by painted plaster and gilded bronzes. Louis XV/II furniture has made a comeback, and magical or elemental symbols like moons are included. The only danger is that it can veer towards the vulgar Rococo Rock style.

n pledge reader after Leone col



ZEN MINIMALISM

MINIMALISM is to decoration what Zen is to philosophy. Searing and definitive, ethical beneath the aesthetic, it is the last word for those with consciences saturated by consumerism. Squares are used religiously for windows, doors and cupboards. There are moveable partitions, a light, a tank of stone serving as a bath — but no ornaments. Minimalists believe they will be redeemed by the futon, that they can meditate in the kitchen and create the metaphysical from the hygienic. This trend to bloodless Japanese style, trendy in the early 1980s, has all the allure of a terminal illness.



EIGHTIES LOFT

THE loft-dweller is torn in two — concerned with modernity, light, space and purity, and at the same time part of the past. Loft-dwellers value supporting columns, industrial architecture, plain or white walls, wooden floorboards, natural brick walls and huge windows. They have a horror of screens and partitions. In Soho, Wapping and Montparnasse, loft-dwellers cook in the living room and have bathrooms in their bedrooms. The loft is a perfect expression of the 1980s — an obvious demonstration of wealth by sheer size. But it is dangerously close to becoming the traditional apartment.



DECO DISCO

THIS was the start of decorating fashion paralleling clothes fashion. Deco Disco followers rediscovered Thirties style, encompassing everything from Dietrich to theatrical make-up with red lips and dark eyes. Deco Disco means ebony and white satin. Its proponents know the nuances of eggshell and off-white and are fond of tubular chrome. Geometric and vertical. Deco is not famed for its comfort. It does not tolerate mixing or eclecticism. You end up being bored by the endless bars finished in Deco style, right down to the mirrors and potted palms. True Art Deco has been gobbled up by Disco.

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BATTLE SITES

Who will win the Millennium Exhibition race?

In early modern Europe, the pursuit of the millennium was the obsession of revolutionary and anarchistic sects...

stature; one need only mention Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra...

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

A new trek begins for de Klerk and his party

Although South Africa's parliamentary elections are not until 1999, F. W. de Klerk is not taking any chances...

Mandela era. If the National Party is ever to succeed in breaking into the ANC vote, it will have to rebuild itself to a new design...

SILENT THUNDER

A language dies — but at least it is recorded first

Another language has left the world, in a catalogue of mortality that passes unnoticed by all but a few grieving specialists...

and even Europe has its threatened tongues, including the Hellenic language of Tsokanian, which is spoken by a tiny group of shepherds in the Peloponnese...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-752 5000

Benefits and disadvantages of a 'stakeholder' economy

From the Chairman of Boss Group Ltd Sir, If Tony Blair's "stakeholder" ideal (letters, January 5, 11, 13) means what we have been doing at Boss Group...

Cohesion (set up by Mr Paddy Ash-down and chaired by me) issued its first report (leading article, July 26, 1995)...

From the Director of the Centre for Policy Studies Sir, Tony Blair may have begun to recognise the issue of social insecurity and has professed his "stakeholder" idea in response...

Saddam's victims, five years on

From Dr Ron Eccles Sir, The people of Iraq have now suffered five years of sanctions as a means of bringing Saddam Hussein into line with UN directives...

Divina in wartime

From Mr Alan Jefferson Sir, I am sorry that Bernard Levin ("The Diva with a shadow", January 12) should have chosen to focus on one aspect of my biography...

Daylight Bill

From Sir Michael Angus and others Sir, On Friday MPs will have an opportunity to vote for John Bunterfield's British Time (Extra Daylight) Bill...

Conservation success

From Mr Ronald John de Vries Sir, Surely Bernard Levin is misguided in his belief that Elisabeth Schwarzkopf had no choice but to accept signing up to the Nazi party...

Conservation success

From the Editor of International Zoo News Sir, Your report, "Rare species disappearing without trace" (January 3), lists animals "unlikely to survive another year of attrition"...

Discarded Tardis

From Mr Bernard Goppel Sir, I cannot let the report of the reincarnation of Dr Who ("Bad news for Daleks as the doctor is reincarnated", January 11) pass without remark...

The Queen's offer

From Mr George Stern Sir, Is not Sarah Bradford's story (January 13) of Winston Churchill's dukedom — that the Queen only offered to make Churchill a duke on condition that he refused — a paradigm for the meanness and arrogance of princes?

Haunting music

From Mr B. J. Francis Sir, I would like to take issue with your suggestion (report, January 9) that ghostly appearances by Julia Margaret Cameron, the famous Victorian photographer...

All-women shortlists

From Mr Brian Bigmore Sir, In defending her party's policy of all-women shortlists (report, January 10) Labour's spokeswoman on women's issues, Tessa Jowell, talks about means and ends, and goes on to state: "Equality and democracy are guiding principles of the Labour Party..."

Disk trouble

From Dr A. H. Landes Sir, I was amused by Magnus Linklater's article (January 8) on the untimely death of his old computer system. Indeed we have all suffered such breakdowns...

Adventurous Ashford

From Mr Michael Baker Sir, Ashford was indeed the engineering hub of the South Eastern Railway (letter, January 12). The line was alleged to operate on the principle of making its third-class carriages so frightful that any prospective passenger would willingly pay the extra fare to go first-class...

Business letters, page 27 Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-752 5046.

OBITUARIES

RICHARD COBB



Richard Cobb, Professor of Modern History, Oxford University, 1973-84, and Senior Research Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, 1984-87, died on January 15 aged 78. He was born on May 20, 1917.

DURING an academic career lasting more than 30 years, Richard Cobb shocked, stimulated, instructed and delighted many friends, pupils and colleagues, outraged and made enemies of a much smaller number, and revitalised the study of the French Revolution not only in this country but in France.

Richard Cobb was the son of Francis Hills Cobb of the Sudan Civil Service and his wife, Dora. Though his father died when he was still young, he had a conventional middle-class English upbringing, and was sent to public school (Shrewsbury, which he disliked) before going up to Merton as a Postmaster in 1935 to read Modern History.

Soon after taking a second he went to France to study French history. However, the Second World War broke out shortly afterwards and, after a series of civilian and semi-military postings, Cobb was attached to the Czech Army on liaison duties and served with it in France and Belgium in the closing campaign of the war.

After demobilisation he resumed his historical research in France, acquiring at the same time a knowledge of departmental and municipal archives whose range and breadth was unrivalled among foreign, and probably surpassed among French, scholars. Cobb published many notes and articles in these years and began also to prepare a French doctoral thesis (eventually not to be submitted, though later published as a two-volume work, *Les Armées Révolutionnaires*) but he returned to England to take up a lectureship in History at University College, Aberystwyth, in 1955.

That same year, however, he was elected to a fellowship and tutorship at Balliol, where he remained until his election to the Chair of Modern History — this was followed by his translation to Worcester College as a professorial fellow in 1973. He became a Fellow of the British Academy in 1967 (giving the Raleigh Lecture in 1974) and was a visiting professor at the Collège de France in 1971 and Zeharoff Lecturer at Oxford in 1974. Honorary fellowships were conferred on him by both Balliol (1977) and Merton (1979).

Cobb was his own chronicler, not only in many written pieces which

revealed his outstanding literary power (*A Second Identity*, published in 1969, contains some of the best examples, while *Still Life*, 1983, sketches from his childhood in Tunbridge Wells, transforms autobiography into social history) but also in his conversation, or, rather, his jerky and immensely informative monologues. Like those of other entertaining chroniclers, his narratives wove together fact and fancy; it was not easy to separate them, nor was it rewarding to do so, for one learnt much more by listening to Cobb than by arguing with him.

His narrative gift, too, embellished his history, for he loved a story, though not a well-marked story-line. He never wrote conventional narrative, but always founded his episodic work on a myriad details, episodes and anecdotes: it was in narrating them in such a way as to qualify and confuse

accepted general accounts and generalised argument that his exceptional talent lay.

His pointilliste technique revived the history of the French Revolution (and, for many of his pupils and readers, much of other history as well), not only by drawing attention to neglected detail but by illuminating, with great sensitivity, the Revolution as it swept over those under the harrow. The conventional pieties the hardly spoke of Robespierre but with bitter contempt were overturned by this, but the excitement was more than that of a mere *frondeur*. His history was compelling not only because it demolished existing categories but because it created new ones; it was, though he might have disliked the term ("for myself", he once wrote, "history has never been an intellectual debate"), an intellectual achievement. It was

expressed in a series of books of which the best (because the most structured) was *Les Armées Révolutionnaires*, and a huge list of occasional papers, articles, long reviews and fragments.

The impact which, for ten years or so, Cobb made upon the direction of research in this country was, on the other hand, as much due to personal encounters as to his writing. In the end, that impact slackened, in part, perhaps, because other men found, to their surprise, that their application of the methods of "Richard Cobb" (he treasured the epithet from *Le Monde* did not yield to them and their readers the excitement his own work conveyed. It was also a qualification of his achievement that he mistakenly involved himself in a scholarly wrangle with the other English historian of his day who made major contributions to the study of the Revolution, Alfred Cobban. Happily, the personal animus which crept into their exchanges was dissipated at the end, and when Cobb paid his last visit to the older historian as he lay on his death bed, they parted as friends. This was characteristic. Cobb could fall out with his friends easily and inexplicably but it was not hard to rebuild one's bridges when a little time had passed. Those who remained unreconciled usually had a quite notable degree of self-regard (a trait he was only too happy to expose by giving their expostulations as wide a circulation as he could).

Hospitable, kindly to those he could help, warm-hearted, deeply in love with France, he belonged to a tradition of English eccentricity for which Oxford seemed a remarkably appropriate setting, disrespectful of its conventional pieties as he strove to be. More sentimental than he dared allow, he in fact loved Oxford and its ways deeply; fortunately, his changing gallery of *bêtes noires* could always find new recruits within a university so diverse. It was there that he made his strongest impact, in the immediate exchanges of personal encounter. Perhaps they also provide a key to his historical achievement, for he was always most happily engaged when recreating the substance of the past at the most personal level — the servant-girl seduced on the 9th Thermidor, or the tap-room brawler turned "de-Christianiser". In illuminating these forgotten lives, he reminded a generation of historians of what they had overlooked, the real and personal abstractions. This was the core of his historical achievement.

Richard Cobb married first in 1951. This marriage was dissolved. He married for a second time in 1963 Margaret Tennant, who survives him along with one son from his first marriage and three sons and a daughter from his second.

ANN ELWELL



Ann Elwell, OBE, intelligence officer and diplomat, died from cancer on January 12 aged 73. She was born on June 16, 1922.

ANN GLASS, later Ann Elwell, was the very model of a wartime "beautiful female spy" as the photographer Angus McBean captured her. She was witty, worldly, a friend of writers and painters (she was artistic and musical), and fluent in French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Her smoker's low voice and laugh seemed a breath from nightclubs and jazz cellars, the crowded rooms she suited so well. But her glamour was deceptive. Unlike the intelligence agent of fiction, always a loner, she combined "the Office" with running a household for her husband, four children and, later, her aged parents, aunt and mother-in-law. She made a genuine success of the multiple roles that modern women grapple with, while always presenting herself as very imperfect, lazy and untidy.

Ann Catherine Glass was the only child of Dr Robert Glass, Royal Navy surgeon turned Bayswater GP (he was on HMS Dreadnought when it sank a U-boat by ramming it in the First World War; the crew said what did it was the weight of "Jumbo" Glass). Her mother, Eileen Smart, was a daughter of the Rector of Tralee, who became Dean of Manchester. Ann was educated at Miss Faunce's school in Bayswater (later Miss Lambert's), and she also had a governess who taught her French and German. The governess's other pupils included Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose.

Ann Glass passed her school certificate at 14. She was sent to the Misses LeStrange's finishing school in Florence, to Germany, and in London to the Monkey Club and the Webber-Douglas drama school (with Michael Coughlin) in the summer of 1939, her mother brought her out, though still only 16, in case there was a war. She was at the last dance at Holland House — soon to be destroyed by a bomb. Staying at Peggy Harmsworth's, she briefly met Henry Yorke (the novelist

Henry Green, who was 34. A year later, Yorke saw her in Bond Street and said: "You are now old enough for me to ask you out." Her friendship with him, and his wife Dig, endured. He was to be the godfather of her third child, Through Yorke, she knew Matthew Smith, Cyril Connolly, William Saroyan, Irwin Shaw and others distinguished in the arts. Matthew Smith painted two portraits of her, one of which he gave to Laurie Lee.

Ann Glass was recruited by MI5 at the age of 18. One of her first jobs was as a script girl on the film *In Which We Serve* — she was there to keep watch on the Italian art director, whom Noël Coward had brought out of internment. She had many admirers, among them in London Charles Collingwood, the United Press and CBS war correspondent, and Dorsey Fisher of the American Embassy. Most of her men friends, like her women friends, were permanent. Her parents took a room for her in the Dorchester during the Blitz (it bore the deepest shelling) which she hardly used, as she was usually out on the town until almost dawn, walking home reading the morning papers by the light of the fires lit by the incendiary bombs before changing to go to her office at Wormwood Scrubs.

As the war ended, she went to Rome to read captured documents, taking over from Anthony Blunt, who moved to Germany. She worked on Mussolini's suitcase of documents, brought to the British by the Partisans who had killed him. In 1950 she married Charles Elwell, a naval officer who joined MI5 after the war and became expert on the KGB. As a working couple in Intelligence the Elwells were sent to Singapore, where three children were born. In 1955 they came back to England, where their last child was born in 1958. Ann Elwell left MI5 and moved to the Foreign Office's Information Research Department (IRD) set up in 1948 to counter communism. She became an expert on the Middle East and made several trips there. She went to Iran, Turkey and Pakistan as part of IRD's help for Cento (the Central Treaty Organisation). When her contacts came to London she used her entertainment allowance to feed them at home, thinking it more welcoming and interesting for them than going out to a restaurant. In 1962 the Elwells moved to Buckinghamshire, so as to be able to house their children and both sets of their own parents under one roof. Ann Elwell retired from government service in the late 1970s. She is survived by her husband and two sons and two daughters.

LORD McFADZEAN

Lord McFadzean, KT, chairman of BICC, 1954-73, and deputy chairman of Midland Bank, 1968-77, died on January 14 aged 92. He was born on December 17, 1903.

AS CHAIRMAN for twenty years of BICC, the massive cable and construction group,

William McFadzean exercised an immense influence on post-war British industry. He graduated through the traditional school of chartered accountancy, before joining British Insulated Cables in 1932 and overseeing its merger with Callender's Cable and Construction Company in 1945. McFadzean's other interests

in industry and finance read like a catalogue of top British companies. He was a director of Midland Bank during the secondary banking crisis of 1974, and he became the first chairman of the British National Export Council (the precursor of the British Overseas Trade Board) in 1964. He gathered a strong team about

him at the council, and pushed for a strong, imaginative export policy for British companies. His one piece of advice to young industrialists was to study languages, preferably at least six of them, in order to operate more effectively in international markets. McFadzean was not a good

linguist himself but he was indefatigable in touring BICC's numerous foreign outposts. He was also one of the first businessmen to promote the idea of a United Europe, a political enoij which, he urged, should grow naturally out of an economic union.

Known as Bill to friends, William Hunter McFadzean was born in Stranraer and educated at Stranraer Academy and High School. He remained recognisably Scottish in accent and manner. His father was a cheese merchant but died when he was 15, and McFadzean's biggest family influence thereafter was a maternal cousin, who advised him to join a company which was both international and involved in an expanding field. McFadzean tried to prepare for this by reading both law and chartered accountancy at Glasgow University, but became ill from overwork and took a degree in only the latter before beginning his career as an accountant in 1927.

Graduating in 1922, he served articles with the Glasgow accountancy firm of McEly, McAllister & McGibbon, and five years later he joined the London firm of Chalmer Wade. One of that firm's clients was British Insulated Cables, whose staff he joined in 1932. He was rapidly promoted — executive manager in 1942 — and over the next three years he worked closely on plans for the merger with Callender's.



He joined the new board of British Insulated Callender's Cables (BICC) in 1945. He was made chief executive in 1950 and chairman in 1954.

Thus, from a very early stage in the life of BICC, McFadzean was responsible for its development from a medium-sized cable company to a group with operations across the globe. Arguing that Britain could not provide a sufficiently large stage for the group's operations, McFadzean drove the company abroad through a series of partnerships and co-operative deals. "Our great success forward," as he described it, was

intended to extend the company's reach without exposing it to undue risk. One of the most ambitious of these partnerships brought BICC together with RTZ and British Aluminium. Within 20 years BICC's exports and overseas sales had grown from £3 million to £250 million.

McFadzean's help to the export drive was a significant factor in the knighthood he received in 1960, and he was raised to the peerage six years later. He was appointed a Knight of the Thistle in 1970. He enjoyed the atmosphere of the Lords, where he could speak on subjects he knew

about while keeping clear of party politics. He took his enthusiasm for export into wider councils, becoming president of the then Federation of British Industry, 1959-61 (later the CBI); chairman of the British National Export Council, 1960-66, and then president, 1966-68; and a founder of the Export Council for Europe. Exporting, he argued, should be backed by the Government, encouraged by a freeing of world trading conditions and regarded as a permanent goal in itself, not a spasmodic effort to get rid of goods unsold at home.

On retirement from BICC in 1973, McFadzean was made life president of the company and became deputy chairman of National Nuclear Corporation until 1980. But he had also sat on the board of Midland Bank since 1959, and banking was to take up more of his energies. He was deputy chairman of the Midland, 1968-77, when the bank streamlined its operations, bought the Thomas Cook travel agency business (since sold) and dealt with the secondary banking crisis.

However, he never completely dropped his connections with BICC, and kept an office at the company which he attended regularly until he and Lady McFadzean moved to Bath in 1987.

Lord McFadzean is survived by his wife Eileen whom he married in 1933, and by a son and a daughter. An adopted daughter predeceased him.

PERSONAL COLUMN

A grid of various personal advertisements including 'Happy Birthday', 'Tickets for Sale', 'For Sale', 'Overseas Travel', 'Flights Directory', 'Capital Flights', 'Winter Sports', 'Musical Instruments', 'The Alternative Piano Sale', 'Markson Pianos', 'Domestic & Catering Situations', 'Seeking Care Giver', 'Access Tickets', 'Midweek Rendezvous', 'Wanted', and 'Trailfinders'.

DAY OF MANY EXPLOSIONS I.R.A. SUSPECTED ON THIS DAY January 17, 1939 Not for the first or last time the IRA was suspected of being the perpetrator of explosions on the mainland. solve the mystery of the London explosions. One of those believed to have been caused by a bomb or a detonator, occurred outside the control room for South-East England of the Central Electricity Board, Southwick, S.E. The other was on a bridge at Harlesden, N.W., which carries electricity cables to Willesden Power Station. In neither case was there any interruption of the electricity supply. One of the theories on which the police are working is that the explosions might be an outbreak of disturbances organised by sympathisers with the illegal Irish Republican Army. This body has been engaged in attempts in blow up Customs huts on the border between Eire and Northern Ireland and, on December 22, 34 of its alleged leaders were arrested in Belfast on the ground that plans had been prepared by the IRA to attack prominent persons and Government property during the Christmas and New Year periods. On January 11, the arrested persons were served with internment orders. The scores then shifted to Dublin. A letter signed by P. Fleming and dated Dublin January 12, was sent to the British Government, who were summoned to withdraw their forces from Northern Ireland by yesterday, falling within the IRA's would attack property in Great Britain. The letter contained any hostility to the British people. Copies of the letter bearing the same signature and date were sent to the Ministers of foreign Powers in Dublin. Yesterday placards were found near the scene of some of the explosions, one of them outside the Roman Catholic Cathedral at Southwick, calling upon the Irish in Great Britain to support the movement for a Republic of All-Ireland. The explosions in Manchester involved gas and electricity mains. They occurred almost simultaneously, and covered an area of about half a mile. In the most severe explosion of the three, Albert Ross, 24, of Hulme, a fish porter at Smithfield Market, was blown into the air and in falling, knocked down Thomas Wash, 40, a postman of Stockport. Ross died in the Royal Infirmary three hours later. Wash escaped with severe shock. For hours afterwards a gas main at this spot, which is behind Piccadilly and a few yards behind the Stevenson Square train and bus terminus, was ablaze.

Transfer fee system offends EU freedom to work principle

Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football Association ASBL v Bosman
Royal Club Liégeois SA v Same and Others
Union des Associations Européennes de Football (UEFA) v Same
Case C-415/93

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President, and Judges C. N. Kakouris, D. A. O. Edward, G. Hirsch, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, P. J. C. Kapteyn, C. Gulmanna, J. L. Murray, P. Jann and H. Ragnemalm
Advocate General C. O. Lenz
(Opinion September 20)
[Judgment December 15]

Article 48 of the EC Treaty, on the freedom of movement of workers, precluded the application of rules of sporting associations whereby a professional footballer could not, on the expiry of his contract with a club, be employed by a club in another member state unless a transfer fee was paid to the former club.

Article 48 precluded the application of rules which limited the number of professional players who were nationals of other member states who could be fielded in competition matches.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, *inter alia*, on a reference, by order of October 1, 1993, by the Cour d'Appel, Liège, Belgium, for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the Treaty.

The rules of *inter alia*, the Belgian football association (URBSFA) and the European football confederation (UEFA) included provisions to the effect that where a player's contract with a club expired, his availability for employment by a new club was subject to the payment by the second to the first club of a transfer fee as compensation for training.

UEFA had a rule permitting national associations to limit the number of foreign players who could be fielded in certain matches, and many national associations had rules restricting the recruitment or fielding of foreign players in matches.

After Mr Jean-Marie Bosman, a professional footballer of Belgian nationality, had refused to sign a contract for a further season with his then club, RC Liège, he was put on the compulsory transfer list, the fee for such transfer being set at BF1,743,000.

No club showed any interest in a compulsory transfer, but contracts were subsequently made between Mr Bosman and a French club, US Dunkerque, for the engagement of Mr Bosman by that club, and between RC Liège and US Dunkerque for the temporary

transfer of Mr Bosman for one year against payment of a fee of BF1,200,000 payable on receipt by the Fédération Française de Football (FFF) of a transfer certificate issued by URBSFA, with the option for a full transfer at a fee of BF4,800,000. Both contracts were subject to the condition that the transfer certificate be sent to FFF in time for the first match of the 1990-1991 season.

RC Liège, which had doubts as to US Dunkerque's solvency, did not ask URBSFA to send the certificate to FFF, and as a result neither contract took effect. In July 1990, RC Liège suspended Mr Bosman, thereby preventing him from playing for the entire season.

In proceedings brought by him, Mr Bosman sought, *inter alia*, an interlocutory order restraining RC Liège and URBSFA from impeding his engagement by a new employer by requiring the payment of a sum of money. Further parties, including UEFA, were later joined to the action.

The questions referred for a preliminary ruling were, *inter alia*, whether article 48 of the EC Treaty prohibited the rules relating to transfer fees and the nationality of players.

Article 48 provides: "[1] Freedom of movement for workers shall be secured within the Community by the end of the transitional period at the latest.

[2] Such freedom of movement shall entail the abolition of any discrimination based on nationality between workers of the member states as regards employment, remuneration and other conditions of work and employment.

[3] It shall entail the right: (a) to accept offers of employment actually made...

In its judgment the Court of Justice held, *inter alia*, as follows:

(1) Article 48 applied to rules laid down by sporting associations such as URBSFA and UEFA which determined the terms on which professional sportsmen could engage in gainful employment, and arguments to the contrary that had been put forward could not be accepted, for the following reasons.

Article 48 not only applied to the action of public authorities but also extended to rules of any other nature aimed at regulating gainful employment in a collective manner, and the abolition as between member states of obstacles to freedom of movement for persons and to freedom to provide services within the meaning of article 48(3), the abolition of state barriers could be neutralized by obstacles resulting from the exercise of their legal autonomy by associations or organisations not governed by public law: see Case 30/74 *Walrave v Association Union Cycliste Internationale* [1974]

ECR 1405, paragraphs 17-18).

Sport was subject to Community law only in so far as it constituted an economic activity within the meaning of article 2 of the Treaty: *Woluwé*, paragraph 4. That applied to the activities of professional or semi-professional footballers, where they were in gainful employment or provided a remunerated service: see Case 13/76 *Dona v Mantero* [1976] ECR 1333, paragraph 12.

It was not necessary, for the purposes of the application of the Community provisions on freedom of movement for workers, for the employer to be an undertaking; all that was required was the existence of, or the intention to create, an employment relationship.

Application of article 48 of the Treaty was not precluded by the fact that the transfer rules governed the business relationships between clubs rather than the employment relationships between clubs and players, as the fact that the employing clubs had to pay fees on recruiting a player from another club affected the players' opportunities for finding employment and the terms under which such employment was offered.

The German Government submitted that sport in general had points of similarity with culture and pointed out that, under article 128(1) of the EC Treaty, the Community must respect the national and regional diversity of the cultures of the member states.

However, the question submitted by the national court did not relate to the conditions under which Community powers of limited extent, such as those based on article 128(1), could be exercised, but to the scope of the freedom of movement of workers guaranteed by article 48, which was a fundamental freedom in the Community system: see, *inter alia*, Case C-19/92 *Krusin v Land Baden-Württemberg* (The Times April 6, 1993); [1993] ECR I-1663, paragraph 16).

The court considered and rejected arguments relating to the difficulty of severing the economic aspects from the sporting aspects of football, the possible consequences of the judgment on the organisation of football as a whole, the freedom of association and autonomy enjoyed by sporting federations under national law, and the principle of subsidiarity.

(2) Since it was clear that Mr Bosman had entered into a contract of employment with a club in another member state with a view to exercising gainful employment in that state, and by so doing had accepted an offer of employment actually made, within the meaning of article 48(3)(a), the situation in issue could not be classified as a

purely internal one which fell outside the ambit of article 48.

(3) The court had repeatedly held that freedom of movement for workers was one of the fundamental principles of the Community, and the Treaty provisions guaranteeing that freedom had had direct effect since the end of the transitional period.

Nationals of member states had the right, derived directly from the Treaty, to leave their country of origin to enter the territory of another member state and reside there in order to pursue an economic activity there, and provisions which precluded or deterred a national of a member state from leaving his country of origin in order to exercise his right to freedom of movement therefore constituted an obstacle to that freedom even if they applied without regard to the nationality of the workers concerned.

It was true that the transfer rules in issue applied also to transfers of players between clubs belonging to different national associations within the same member state and that similar rules governed transfers between clubs belonging to the same national association, but those rules were likely to restrict the freedom of movement of players who wished to pursue their activity in another member state, by preventing or deterring them from leaving the club to which they belonged even after the expiry of their contracts of employment with those clubs.

Since they provided that a professional footballer could not pursue his activity with a new club established in another member state unless it had paid his former club a transfer fee agreed on between the two clubs or determined in accordance with the regulations of the sporting associations, the rules constituted an obstacle to freedom of movement for workers prohibited in principle by article 48.

That finding was not affected by the fact that the transfer rules adopted by UEFA in 1990 stipulated that the business relationship between the two clubs was to exert no influence on the activity of the player, which was to be free to play for his new club, as the new club must still pay the fee in issue, under pain of penalties which might include its being struck off for debt, which prevented it just as effectively from signing up a player from a club in another member state without paying that fee.

(4) The rules could only not be contrary to article 48 if they pursued a legitimate aim compatible with the Treaty and were justified by pressing reasons of public interest, and even then they would have to be such as not to go

beyond what was necessary for that purpose.

In view of the considerable social importance of sporting activities and in particular football in the Community, the aims of maintaining a balance between clubs by preserving a certain degree of equality and uncertainty as to results and of encouraging the recruitment and training of young players must be accepted as legitimate.

However, as regards the first of those aims, the application of the transfer rules was not an adequate means of maintaining financial and competitive balance in the world of football. Those rules neither restricted the richest clubs from securing the services of the best players nor prevented the availability of financial resources from being a decisive factor in competitive sport, thus considerably altering the balance between clubs.

As regards the second aim, it must be accepted that the prospect of receiving transfer, development or training fees was indeed likely to encourage football clubs to seek new talent and to train young players.

However, because it was impossible to predict the sporting future of young players with any certainty and because only a limited number of such players went on to play professionally, those fees were by nature contingent and uncertain and were in any event unrelated to the actual cost borne by clubs of training both future professional players and those who would never play professionally.

The prospect of receiving such fees could not, therefore, be either a decisive factor in encouraging recruitment and training of young players or an adequate means of financing such activities, particularly in the case of smaller clubs.

Furthermore, the same aims could be achieved at least as efficiently by other means which did not impede freedom of movement for workers.

The argument that the rules in question were necessary to compensate clubs for the expenses which they had had to incur in paying fees on recruiting their players could not be accepted, since it sought to justify the maintenance of obstacles to freedom of movement for workers simply on the ground that such obstacles had been able to exist in the past.

Under the second question, it was to be considered whether the nationality clauses constituted an obstacle to freedom of movement for workers prohibited by article 48.

Article 48(2) had been implemented, in particular, by article

4 of Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 of the Council of October 15, 1968 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community (Official Journal, English Special Edition, 1968(1), p.979), under which provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action of the member states which restricted by number or percentage the employment of foreign nationals in any undertaking, branch of activity or region, or at a national level, were not to apply to nationals of the other member states.

The same principle applied to clauses contained in the regulations of sporting associations which restricted the right of nationals of other member states to take part, as professional players, in football matches: see *Dona*, paragraph 19.

The fact that those clauses concerned not the employment of such players in a profession but their participation in official matches, in so far as participation in such matches was the essential purpose of a professional player's activity, a rule which restricted that participation obviously also restricted the chances of employment of the player concerned.

The existence of an obstacle having thus been established, there remained the question whether that obstacle could be justified in the light of article 48.

In *Dona*, paragraphs 14-15, the court had held that the Treaty provisions concerning freedom of movement for persons did not prevent the adoption of rules or practices excluding foreign players from certain matches for reasons

which were not of an economic nature, which related to the particular nature and context of such matches and were thus of sporting interest only, such as, for example, matches between national teams from different countries. It stressed, however, that that restriction on the scope of the provisions in question must remain limited to its proper objective.

In the present case, the nationality clauses did not concern specific matches between teams representing their countries but applied to all official matches between clubs and thus to the essence of the activity of professional players.

In these circumstances, the nationality clauses could not be deemed to be in accordance with article 48 of the Treaty, as otherwise that article would be deprived of its practical effect and the fundamental right of free access to employment which the Treaty conferred individually on each worker in the Community rendered nugatory.

None of the arguments put forward by the sporting associations and the governments which had submitted observations, which the court considered, detracted from that conclusion.

Inter alia, although it had been argued that the nationality clauses prevented the richest clubs from engaging the best foreign players, those clauses were not sufficient to achieve the aim of maintaining a competitive balance, since there were no rules limiting the possibility for such clubs to recruit the best national players, thus undermining that balance to just the same extent.

3 For reasons given by it, the court

held that there should be a temporal limitation of the effects of its judgment in relation to transfer fees.

As to nationality clauses in the light of the *Walrave and Dona* judgments, it was not reasonable for those concerned to consider that the discrimination resulting from nationality clauses was compatible with article 48 of the Treaty, so that there were no grounds for a temporal limitation in that regard.

On those grounds, the European Court of Justice ruled:

1 Article 48 of the EC Treaty precluded the application of rules laid down by sporting associations whereby a professional footballer who was a national of one member state could not, on the expiry of his contract with a club, be employed by a club of another member state unless the latter club had paid to the former club a transfer fee for training or development.

2 Article 48 precluded the application of rules laid down by sporting associations whereby, in matches in which they organised, football clubs could field only a limited number of professional players who were nationals of other member states.

3 The direct effect of article 48 could not be relied on in support of claims relating to a fee in respect of transfer, training or development which had already been paid on, or was still payable under, an obligation which arose before the date of the present judgment, except by those who had brought court proceedings or raised an equivalent claim under the applicable national law before that date.

Meaning of 'establishment' for redundancies

Rockfon A/S v Specialarbejderforbundet i Danmark, acting on behalf of Nielsen and Others
Case C-449/93

The term 'establishment' in article 1(1)(a) of Council Directive 75/129/EEC of February 17, 1975 (OJ 1975 L48/29) relating to collective redundancies meant, depending on the circumstances, the unit to which workers made redundant were assigned to carry out their duties, and it was not essential, in order for there to be an 'establishment', that the unit had a management which could effect collective redundancies independently of other units in a group of companies.

The First Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, *inter alia*, on December 7 when answering the question referred for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Ostre Landsret (Eastern Regional Court), Denmark, by order of November 16, 1993, in proceedings concerning a claim for compensation by employees dismissed by Rockfon A/S, a company in a group.

By internal instructions in the group, any decisions on dismissals of Rockfon employees had to be taken in consultation with the personnel department of another company in the group. It was not disputed that in the event Rockfon on its own was an 'establishment'

coming within the directive under article 1(1)(a) having regard to the number of employees dismissed, there had been a breach of the obligation on employers imposed by the directive.

The court said that the meaning of 'establishment' was to be assessed having regard to the objective of the directive, namely the protection of workers in the event of collective redundancies, and if a company such as Rockfon were held not to be an 'establishment', that would allow companies belonging to the same group to try to make it more difficult for the directive to apply to them by conferring on a separate decision-making body the power to take redundancy decisions.

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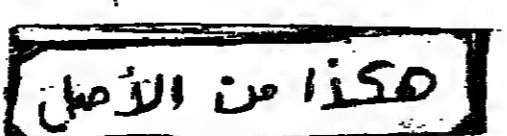
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Journalists are often blamed for whipping up public fears but statisticians could help by making their figures more accessible

The chances are we won't understand

TEACH MORALS in school? Teach probabilities instead. The country is in a sad state indeed when people worry more about terrorist attacks than accidents in the home.

torment, starting with comparative fares. Rail or air? Coach or car? Which airline? People who are really nervous might worry whether they should ever go to San Francisco. There are calculable odds on being there the day the "big one" strikes.

Most of us want to be realistic about life's dangers but we are not helped by the way they are presented from on high. The Department of Health recently demonstrated how not to do it.

rise in pregnancies among unmarried teenagers. How much better if the fear had been anticipated and the news had been given out publicly, preceded by a health warning: the risk of thrombosis from pregnancy is greater than that from any oral contraceptive.

one-in-a-million risk not worth bothering about. This useful measure ought to be applied whenever possible. All medical news stories should be balanced by illustrations of the chances of encountering the hazard in question.

above all a high-principled, steely businessman who knows how to do the job in hand. Sworn to respect the BBC's impartiality, he will do it.

chairman of the Hammersmith Hospitals Trust. What is certain is that Sir Christopher knows the business of television and his regulation inside out and he will confidently steer the BBC through the shoals ahead: renegotiating the level of the licence fee, appointing for reappointing a new Director-General and solving the sports-and-satellites problem.



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While Eddy Shah was depicted as an ogre by Spitting Image for trying to start a non-union newspaper, Murdoch moved his newspapers to Wapping, bypassing the unions and sparking nightly clashes between pickets and police



Wapping saved the newspaper industry

It is ten years since Rupert Murdoch set out to break the stranglehold of the print unions. Andrew Knight assesses the impact for editors and readers

en years ago an upheaval began in the newspaper industry whose results today are wholly normal. When measure the change that taken place since the soil at Wapping, however, startling.

graph was effectively bankrupt and falling as a product. Both are now prime newspapers. Later that same year The Independent was to teach three slumbering broadsheets (the Telegraph, Times and Guardian) how to improve many aspects of their newspapers.

doing "an anti-Wapping" when he sent so many of his printers down to a new Docklands plant so extravagant that the whole thing, and almost every job in it, later had to be abolished.

newspaper. In Fleet Street, it was harder for a new voice like mine to persuade harassed managers and editors than the comfortable union bosses that "1986 will be the year of Murdoch not of Shah".

immensely courageous, even in the Thatcher revolution of the 1980s. A revolution which made British industry as a whole viable for the first time in my lifetime, competitive with even Japan, never mind France or Germany.

picked up by Eddy Shah at Warrington. Then the huge challenge of the miners' strike had to be dealt with on a national level. Finally, came Wapping.

And his staff at one end of a process trying to relay news and interest and entertainment over the breakfast table to his reader at the other end. Yet, thanks to an archaic delivery system where the reader is charged extra for being a regular customer, the editor still does not know who his individual readers are.

Gromit to the rescue

THERE no end to the ventures of Wallace and Gromit, the plasticine creations of the Bristol-based animator Nick Park.

Our ratings chart for Christmas week shows that the intrepid duo's previous two films, A Grand Day Out and the Oscar-winning The Wrong Trousers, each attracted more than six million viewers, giving BBC2 a strong edge over Channel 4.

audience share was 11 per cent last year. The strong performance of Channel 4's televised version of the popular stage dance show, Riverdance, starring Michael Flatley and Jean Butler, shows just how infectious the Irish tunes, syncopated rhythms and sheer exuberance of the production - which began life as an interval filler for the Eurovision Song Contest - can be.

Why must the press depict everyone with mental illness as a crazed killer, asks Ruth Runciman

Tell the truth about Broadmoor

Broadmoor Hospital occupies a special place in the public's imagination. Everyone has heard of it, but not everyone will know that it is one of the NHS's three Special Hospitals, which provide care and treatment for patients defined as having "dangerous, violent or criminal propensities".

code of practice is particularly relevant in view of the powerlessness and vulnerability of the subjects. The other two Special Hospitals, Ashworth and Rampton, suffer from much the same gap between what journalists write about them and what actually happens in them.



coverage is unmistakable: it demoralises professionals, damages and confuses patients, and undermines public understanding. The only remedy open to the hospitals is to complain to the papers and the Press Complaints Commission.

not being frightened out of proportion to the facts. Fear of crime has the advantage of making us more likely to take sensible precautions. But fear of people with mental illness only stunts our capacity to respond, and limits our ability to distinguish between the majority of seriously mentally ill people who pose no risk to others, and that small minority who do.

Table with columns: Date, Time, Producer, Genre, Aud (Millions) AT 4+

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17 1996

S&N sheds 1,600 jobs after Courage acquisition

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE, Britain's biggest brewer, is shedding 1,600 jobs at its beer division in a radical restructuring that follows the group's acquisition of Courage last year.

Transport and General Workers Union's national secretary for the drinks industry, said: "The industry is still adjusting to the ill-conceived Monopoly and Merger Commission report The Supply of Beer, which has created a concentration in the industry. Many thousands of jobs have already been lost through this MMC report."

ly is from the reality of insecure Britain." Details are still being finalised and Scottish Courage, the newly created beer division of S&N, said that the job cuts would be made over the next 12 months. The restructuring programme, which follows a six-month review of the business, will cost £150 million in severance payments and other expenses. The company said that the measures would yield annual savings of £75 million. It is not clear yet how many of the job cuts will be forced.

more streamlined structure." Home Brewery in Nottingham will shut by August and Fountain Head Brewery in Halifax by October. Throughout the year there will also be closures of the distribution and sales depots at Stepps in Strathclyde, Garforth near Leeds, Gateshead, Nottingham, Preston, Aylesford, Swansea, Dunstable, Cardiff, Southampton and Merion. Further depot casualties will come from the amalgamation of three London centres and the replacement of Brierley Hill in the West Midlands. S&N is to pull together its trading operations in the new division of Scottish Courage Brands.

The rationalisation by S&N was announced by the company when it took over Courage. At the time, it said how much it intended to spend but was quiet on how the restructuring would be achieved. The City will now focus on how S&N shapes its post-Courage strategy. Matthew Naylor, drinks analyst with Williams de Broe, said: "The cost-cutting was necessary but the company cannot continue slicing at costs. Expectations will be on what new products it can develop. That is the only opportunity to grow the business."

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including Stock Market Indices, US Rate, London Money, Sterling, and Dollar.

Granada raid grabs 9% of Forte

By ERIC REGULY GRANADA snapped up £340 million of Forte shares in a 30-minute stock market raid yesterday and said the speed of the purchases indicated that the takeover bid was going in its favour. Granada, whose £3.8 billion hostile bid closes on Tuesday, bought 87.5 million Forte shares, equivalent to 9.2 per cent of the share capital, at 384p apiece. The price was the same as the value of its shares and cash offer at the time of the purchases, which occurred between 10.45am and 11.5am. The all-cash alternative is worth 362p.

up 14.4p, while Granada shares finished at 693p, up 23p. The identity of the sellers is unknown, although some were said to be market-makers. The names of the institutions which sold 1 per cent or more of Forte's shares were revealed today in so-called Rule 8 disclosures. Mercury Asset Management, Forte's largest shareholder with more than 15 per cent, would not comment on whether it had sold Forte shares yesterday. A Granada adviser called Granada's open-market raid "a very good sign" but Forte remained defiant. Sir Rocco Forte, chief executive, said: "We remain confident that Forte shareholders will decide this on the merits and will reject this highly leveraged conglomerate bid."



Sir Anthony Tennant, Forte's chairman elect, left, with Burton's John Hoerner

SIB accused of weak stance in pension scandal

By ROBERT MILLER A PROGRESS report by the City's most senior watchdog on the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal has been greeted with dismay. Consumer bodies, unions and MPs united yesterday to condemn the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) for its failure to inflict tougher disciplinary measures on firms and advisers who have missed case review and compensation deadlines. Nearly 1.5 million cases will have to be reviewed for evidence that investors were wrongly advised to leave their occupational or company pension scheme, or not join in the first place, in favour of a personal pension plan. But up to 250,000 investors, who include nurses, miners, local authority workers and police officers, have not received letters from their independent financial adviser (IFA) alerting them to the review. Kate Scribbens of the Consumers' Association said: "The most urgent cases should have been resolved by the end of 1995. Yet most IFAs have not even started the process. We are particularly concerned by the watering down of the review process that will be carried out by IFAs. This appears to be a climbdown by

the regulators and a victory for vested interests." Ms Scribbens added: "We want to see the SIB forcing the pace by ensuring that the next deadlines are met, and cracking down on companies who are dragging their feet." Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the SIB, said that teething problems last year, such as several legal challenges to the review and computer software problems, had now been ironed out. While some companies had done their best to comply with the review and compensation process, others were dragging their heels. Sir Andrew said any company guilty of obstructing the review could face disciplinary action. This might involve hefty fines or even expulsion from the industry. Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, said: "Blaming the delays on computer software isn't good enough. The regulators must... act for the public good." John Monks, TUC general secretary, said: "Some companies have made genuine efforts to compensate those ripped off, but too many are way behind schedule. It is now time for the regulator to crack the whip."

City scents another cut

THE FT-SE 100 index climbed above 3,700 and gills scored gains of about 2% as City hopes rose sharply on the prospect of another interest rate cut (writes Michael Clark). The equity market struggled off an overnight fall on Wall Street to close at its best of the day with a rise of 47.9 to 3,710.6. It was the market's best one-day performance for three months and leaves it just 18 points shy of its record. Brokers were hopeful that today's meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will pave the way for a rate cut. Stock market, page 26

Peoples Phone postpones planned £200m flotation

By GEORGE STIVELL PEOPLES PHONE, Britain's largest independent mobile-phone service provider, yesterday postponed a flotation planned for next month that was expected to have valued it at about £200 million. Directors yesterday blamed trading conditions in the UK mobile-phone market for the decision. They said the market had failed to live up to expectations in the run-up to Christmas and this affected sentiment towards the company. It claimed 7 per cent of the market of 5 million subscribers. Peoples Phone said its market share in December was

Banks call for clear policy on 'Euro'

By PATRICIA TEHAN BANKING CORRESPONDENT BRITISH banks are finding it impossible to plan for the arrival of the new "Euro" because of political indecision, according to senior bankers. Gerald Hawkins, chairman of an industry committee working on the implications of the single currency and a general manager of payment services at Lloyds Bank, told a House of Lords committee that banks were "operating in a policy vacuum". Mr Hawkins is chairman of a joint British Bankers' Association (BBA) and Asso-

ciation for Payment Clearing Services (Apacs) steering committee on economic and monetary union (EMU). A BBA paper on single currency estimated that British banks would have to spend at least £914 million to prepare for the Euro if Britain opts into the single currency, but less than half that amount if it opted out. The paper was given to the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities as part of its inquiry on EMU. Mr Hawkins said that bank boards were having to take decisions on spending without knowing what sort

of preparations for a single currency they needed to make. He said political and Bank of England leadership was needed to confront the problem; it should not be left to the banks. Under the current timetable, full monetary union is due to be achieved in 2002. However, Britain can opt out of single currency under an agreement in the Maastricht treaty. Mr Hawkins said: "In order to prepare ourselves for 2002, we are having to make quite large investment decisions in a scenario where it is quite unclear whether we are going to be in or out." He said the position of rival

French and German banks was much clearer as they increasingly operate on a Europe-wide basis and "operate in a much clearer policy position". Afterwards he said: "We need to make the right moves now to make sure that London is not disadvantaged. In order to do that in a sensible way, we need decisions and support from the authorities." Tim Sweeney, BBA director-general, said he was concerned that if Britain opted out of a single currency, it could face discrimination in the European system by which banks settle transactions with each other.

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Virgin consortium on track for £3bn channel tunnel contract

Treasury backs L&CR rail link bid

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TREASURY officials are pressing ministers to award the £3 billion Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) contract to London & Continental Railways (LCR), the consortium that includes Virgin Group and National Express, the bus company.

They fear that the rapidly deteriorating financial performance of Eurostar is threatening the viability of the project.

the highest infrastructure scheme in the Government's Private Finance Initiative.

The group of senior civil servants and bankers advising the Government on awarding the contract believe that only L&CR has the necessary transport experience to turn struggling Eurostar into a profitable operation.

Eurostar is the only other consortium in the shortlist, which is led by Trafalgar House and BICC, is handicapped by having no specialist

transport operators among its shareholders. A formal recommendation from the advisory group is due to be presented to Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, this week. He will make the final decision after securing agreement from Cabinet colleagues. A Commons statement announcing the award of the contract is planned for late January or early February.

Officials have been alarmed by the disastrous finances of Eurostar. Passengers using

the operator of Eurostar, which has seen its Government subsidy soar to more than £200 million over the past year. Original financial projections forecast that the Eurostar would now be in profit and contributing to the cost of building the 88-mile rail link. As recently as November 1994, the loss for the current year was forecast at about £100 million, half the actual level.

The losses have been caused by massive shortfalls in the

number of passengers using the train, which runs between Waterloo International and Brussels and Paris. Just over 3 million passengers travelled on Eurostar last year, its first full year of operation, compared with the 16 million forecast in 1987.

A projected 5.1 million are expected to use Eurostar this year, against a forecast of 10 million in December 1994. The latest estimates from EPS suggest that passenger numbers will rise to only 10 million

by the end of the century. As well as undermining the financial case for the high speed link, the disappointing Eurostar numbers are crippling Eurotunnel's attempts to secure its financial future.

£1 Bidders were yesterday shortlisted for the next tranche of British Rail passenger franchises being offered to the private sector. Midland Main Line, InterCity East Coast, Gatwick Express and Network SouthCentral are expected to be awarded in April.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Index points the way for Littlewoods

LITTLEWOODS, the pools to mail order company, yesterday revealed strong sales over Christmas, helped by a particularly strong performance by its Index catalogue shops.

The company reiterated that profits for the year to December 30 would fail to match those achieved last year. The company said that sales in its UK retail divisions in the six weeks to December 30 rose 7.4 per cent. The Index catalogue shops lifted sales by 9.8 per cent, while the home shopping division lifted sales by 7 per cent and the chain stores lifted sales by 6.3 per cent.

Late last year, Littlewoods' owners, the Moores family, rejected two informal takeover approaches that valued the group at £1.1 billion. The shareholders rejected advances from Barry Dale, a former chief executive, and a consortium offer from N. Brown and Iceland, opening instead for a more orderly process for deciding the group's future ownership.

Welsh Water lifts stake

WELSH WATER, which is challenging Ian Byatt, the water regulator, over his demands for a separate listing of the water business after a planned merger with South Wales Electricity, now controls 59 per cent of its bid target. A decision on the bid by Welsh, which would create the country's second super-utility after North West Water and Norweb became United Utilities, is due from Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, by January 25. Swalec recommended the £872 million bid after protracted talks.

Microgen profits up 36%

MICROGEN Holdings, the specialist computer services company, reported a 36 per cent rise in profits to £8.4 million before tax in the year to October 31, on turnover of £60 million, up from £58.77 million. The company has lifted the total dividend to 7.5p a share from 7.25p, with a 5.2p final. Earnings rose to 14.8p a share from 10p. The shares advanced 13p to 191p. Microgen ended the year with net cash of £2 million, compared with borrowings of £2.4 million a year earlier, despite capital expenditure of £6 million.

McKechnie in US deal

McKECHNIE, the plastic and metals components group, continued its expansion into the US market with the purchase of Thompson, a wheel-trim manufacturer, for £32 million. The acquisition pleased the City and shares rose 8p to close at 421p. McKechnie has been reducing its reliance on the UK market. In November it bought Valley Toledo, the US company which makes parts for the aerospace industry, for £7.4 million. McKechnie said yesterday's purchase would open access to the US market and new technologies.

AT&T London move

AT&T, the US telephone company, has signed an interconnection agreement with City of London Telecommunications. Colt, as it is known, will provide AT&T with access to its fibre-optic network, which connects about 380 buildings in the City and Canary Wharf. The arrangement is non-exclusive. Colt also has interconnection agreements with BT, Mercury, Enigma and others. BT also announced that it and International Telecom Japan, will jointly provide Concert network voice services in Japan from this summer.

Eleco rights issue

ELECO HOLDINGS, the structural and engineered products company, is raising £2.09 million through a rights issue to reduce borrowings and to fund development. Three new shares are being offered for every ten held at 28p each. Existing shares were unchanged at 31p yesterday. The company is raising a further £625,000 through the sale of surplus land, subject to planning permission. Shareholders were promised an interim dividend of 0.25p. Eleco reiterated its confidence for 1996 as a whole.

Siebe sells filters arm

SIEBE, the diversified engineering group, has sold its British Filters business to Quinton Hazell, the European subsidiary of America's Echlin, for £4.8 million. British Filters manufactures air, oil and fuel filters for the after-market and automotive industry and specialist filtration equipment for industrial uses. Separately, Siebe has named Stuart Amos as president and chief operating officer of its diversified products division. His appointment follows the death of Brian McMahon, who had held the post, in an air crash.

Matthew Clark buys

MATTHEW CLARK, the UK drinks company, has acquired Dunn & Moore, the Scottish delivered wholesale divisions of The Joseph Dunn Group, for up to £5.75 million. The business will be integrated with Matthew Clark's existing national wholesale division, Freighters Group. In the year to March 31, Dunn & Moore generated a turnover of £27.5 million. Matthew Clark will pay an initial consideration of £3.75 million, with further deferred profit-related payments of up to £2 million over the period to April 2000.

Barclays wins Barings deal on asset management

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARINGS is to close its custodian business in July and recommend that asset management clients representing assets worth £10 billion use Barclays Bank for global custody services instead.

A growing number of fund managers are seeking to hand over custodian services to a third party because of the growing need for economies of scale in global custody. It is perceived need to concentrate on core business activities and as a result of the collapse of Barings last year.

Barings Asset Management ran into controversy after the collapse of Barings, Britain's oldest merchant bank, in February last year. Asset management clients had used Barings as their custodian and signed

agreements with the bank allowing their cash to be placed on deposit there.

When the parent company collapsed, more than £600 million in asset management client cash was frozen, creating panic among clients.

Equity assets were ring-fenced and therefore protected from creditors.

Barings, which is now owned by ING, the Dutch banking group, is the first integrated house to use a third party for custodian services. Others are expected to follow after last week's award of Britain's biggest global custody contract by the Prudential, which appointed Midland Bank and Mellon Trust of the US to handle services for £45 billion of assets.

Kevin Lee, a director of Barings Asset Management, said the firm had recognised that it was unlikely to remain in custody services before the collapse of its parent. He said the main motivator was the additional expenditure required for the implementation of rolling settlement under Crest this summer.

He said he expected clients in take advantage of the agreement reached with Barclays as Barings will reduce its management fees by the amount the client pays to Barclays. It plans to complete the transfer of custody services by the middle of the year. Barings Asset Management has £25 billion under management.

Barings Asset Management started an independent review using Thomas Murray, the custody consultants, in July last year. It reviewed ten custodians before choosing to deal with Barclays.



Michael Heseltine with the revolutionary glass at Pilkington where he announced unemployment figures

British Gas under pressure on servicing arrangements

LABOUR yesterday demanded an inquiry into the failure of British Gas to offer non-contrast services to large parts of its country.

Nigel Griffiths, the Shadow Consumer Minister, said: "Many people simply cannot afford expensive maintenance contracts. The backlog is a result of axing 25,000 jobs." Mr Griffiths urged Tim Eggar, the industry minister, to raise the issue with Ofgas, the gas industry regulator. He

said: "Safeguards which Labour demanded during the 1995 Gas Act were rejected by Tim Eggar. Now millions of gas customers are facing the consequences."

Mr Griffiths said that the problems revealed by *The Times* reinforced complaints about servicing arrangements received by his office. British Gas yesterday said that the suspension of on-demand servicing and repairs applied only to pockets of the country

Heseltine marks visit with error

MICHAEL HESELTINE, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday welcomed the 28th successive monthly fall in unemployment figures at a visit to the Pilkington Technology Centre at Latham in Lancashire. However, the figures are not due to be announced until 9.30am today by the Central Statistical Office.

Economics announcements are regarded as price sensitive and are supposed to be kept secret until their release time.

Mr Heseltine was launching a mirror-making process but his error is likely to cause an outcry because economics announcements are regarded as highly price sensitive.

The new Pilkington mirror process enables a reflective surface to be put onto the glass as it is being made.

Pilkington has little involvement in the mirror market at present. It normally sends out the glass to be silvered by other suppliers.

Heseltine's gaffe, page 2

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.16
Austria Sch	15.31
Belgium Fr	49.20
Canada \$	2.09
Cyprus Cyp£	0.748
Denmark Kr	6.56
Finland Mk	7.95
France Fr	8.08
Germany DM	2.48
Greece Dr	339.01
Hong Kong \$	7.75
India Ru	12.87
Israel Sh	4.600
Italy Lit	2036.00
Japan Yen	177.30
Malaysia M	0.527
Malta M	2.623
Malta M	2.47
New Zealand \$	10.44
Norway Kr	8.20
Poland Zl	225.50
Spain Ptas	163.00
Switzerland Fr	1.48
Turkey Lira	8767.40
USA \$	1.640

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE LAND REGISTRY

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PUBLIC NOTICES

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO CONSTRUCT A NEW SLAUGHTERHOUSE IN AREA 23 OF SHEUNG SHUI, FOR COMPLETION IN OCTOBER 1998. THE NEW SHEUNG SHUI SLAUGHTERHOUSE (SSSH) WILL REPLACE THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED CHEUNG SHIA WAN ABATTOIR AND KEANEY TOWN ABATTOIR AND THE PRIVATELY OWNED YUEN LONG SLAUGHTERHOUSE. SITUATED ON A 5.7 HECTARE SITE, THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE WILL HAVE A SLAUGHTERING CAPACITY OF 5,000 PIGS AND 400 CARCASS PER DAY. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO ENGAGE A PRIVATE COMPANY IN THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SSSH, AND NOW INVITES COMPANIES WITH EXPERIENCE IN THE OPERATION OF LARGE-SCALE SLAUGHTERHOUSES TO EXPRESS INTEREST FOR THE LICENSE TO OPERATE THE SHEUNG SHUI SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

INTERESTED COMPANIES ARE INVITED TO APPLY TO:
Assistant Director (Special Project),
Regional Services Department,
7/F, Regional Council Building,
1-3 Pui Tau Street, Sheung Shui, N.T., Hong Kong.

Interested companies will be required to demonstrate their capabilities and experience in the management of large-scale slaughterhouses, and to explain how they propose to apply their experience and expertise in the management of the SSSH. They should also provide information on the history, structure, business and financial position of their companies.

An information note on the slaughterhouse and the application procedures and a set of the proposed bond terms of the licence to operate the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse can be obtained from the Hong Kong Government Office at No. 6 Grafton Street, WIX 3LB.

For further information and enquiries, please fax to the Regional Services Department at (852)2692 6867. The deadline for submission is 12 February 1996 (Hong Kong time). All submissions must be in English.

IN THIS INVITATION TO EXPRESS INTEREST AND ANY APPLICATION IN RESPONSE WILL NOT CREATE ANY RELATIONSHIPS, CONTRACTUAL OR OTHERWISE, BETWEEN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTIES SUBMITTING THE APPLICATIONS.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: LICENCE TO OPERATE THE SHEUNG SHUI SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The Hong Kong Government is planning to construct a new slaughterhouse in area 23 of Sheung Shui, for completion in October 1998. The new Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse (SSSH) will replace the Government-owned Cheung Shia Wan Abattoir and Keaneley Town Abattoir and the privately owned Yuen Long Slaughterhouse. Situated on a 5.7 hectare site, the slaughterhouse will have a slaughtering capacity of 5,000 pigs and 400 carcass per day. The Hong Kong Government intends to engage a private company in the operation and management of the SSSH, and now invites companies with experience in the operation of large-scale slaughterhouses to express interest for the licence to operate the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse.

The prospective operator of the SSSH will be selected among companies which have expressed interest and are found to be suitable and qualified to take up the licence to operate the Sheung Shui Slaughterhouse.

Interested companies are invited to apply to:
Assistant Director (Special Project),
Regional Services Department,
7/F, Regional Council Building,
1-3 Pui Tau Street, Sheung Shui, N.T., Hong Kong.

Interested companies will be required to demonstrate their capabilities and experience in the management of large-scale slaughterhouses, and to explain how they propose to apply their experience and expertise in the management of the SSSH. They should also provide information on the history, structure, business and financial position of their companies.

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Churchill's brainchild in birthday merger

Two into one goes at the CSO

THE Central Statistical Office, set up by Winston Churchill as part of his war effort, is today celebrating not only its 55th birthday but its last.

The CSO, which has been headquartered in the same building as the War Cabinet on Horseguards Road since it was set up, is merging with the Office of Population Censuses & Surveys and moving to new offices in Pimlico. As the CSO puts it, Churchill's wartime baby is getting married and leaving home.

In suitable celebration of both anniversary and merger, which brings together economic and social figures for the first time, the CSO offers a fascinating pot pourri of both types of statistics.

Did you know that a pint of bitter cost the equivalent of four pence in 1941 but will nowadays set you back £1.49? Consider that there were 1.9 million private cars then and more than 30 million now. And what of divorce: there were barely 7,000 in 1941 against 160,000 a year now. In his request for such a

knowledge machine, the Prime Minister said: "It is essential to consolidate and make sure agreed figures only are used. The utmost confusion is caused when people argue on different statistical data."

With the Conservatives and Labour currently engaged in a battle of statistics, marinated in full-page newspaper advertisements to support their causes and naturally completely contradictory, this is as true today as it was 55 years ago.

Bank flotation ends early

THE Bank of Scotland was yesterday forced to close the public share offer for 40 per cent of BankWest, its Australian bank, more than three weeks early in the face of overwhelming demand for the shares, sparking off accusations that it had acquired the bank much too cheaply (Rachel Bridge writes).

The Bank of Scotland acquired BankWest from the

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55 من الأمل

□ The SIB needs a greater sense of urgency □ Weighing up the cost of EMU □ Flim-flam merchants back in favour

Wanted: a watchdog, not a lapdog

THE Securities and Investment Board's so-called "progress report" would be the occasion for great hilarity, but for the genuine and widespread financial hardship the pensions review was set up to ameliorate.

As the SIB itself admits, a wide gap has opened up between the progress of the fastest and the slowest firms attempting to identify their respective victims of mis-selling. But the SIB's target dates still remain in place as "progress benchmarks".

tried yesterday, to put the onus on the customer to respond to letters and questionnaires and speed up the process. Sir Andrew now has the requisite knightly in recognition of his services, and it might be time for him to move on.



Pennington, the BBA hints at banks' preference for joining at the beginning. They reckon that they will lose out if the Euro is launched without Britain.

the case for keeping to the Maastricht timetable against all common sense evidence was political, in the greater cause of making future non-economic moves to advance European union look more credible.

it will have to import a load of hardware and software already designed and built on the Continent to cope with it.

something like seven times expected taxable profits by the end of the decade, or six times what it made last year. This is a chunky multiple for a business with virtually no assets except its staff.

Estate agent's shares tumble

Shares in Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks Holdings fell 6p to 41p after the estate agent and surveyor specialising in commercial property cut its interim dividend to 0.6p (1.5p) after a 47.6 per cent slump in profits.

Remy strikes flat note

Remy Cointreau struck a sober note yesterday about future performance as it reported that sales had been curbed by resistance to the price increases it has pushed through.

Dagul quits Southend

Malcolm Dagul is stepping down as chairman and chief executive of Southend Property Holdings after the company's £10.5 million purchase of Old Hall Estates, a private property group controlled by Graeme Jackson and Neil Anker.

BSE scare hits Sims

Shares of Sims Food Group fell 15p to a new low yesterday after the meat processor and supplier gave warning that there would be no final dividend because of the BSE scare.

McDonnell and Boeing merger talks break down

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MERGER talks between Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, the US plane-makers, appear to have broken down amid disagreements over who would run the combined business, and reluctance on the part of Boeing to pay \$12 billion for its smaller rival.

find another partner and increase question marks over Boeing's defence business. Merger talks were initiated by Boeing to build a defence business to match that created by the combination of Lockheed and Martin Marietta last year.

Boeing, with defence revenues of \$4.7 billion a year, makes the Boeing 767 airborne early-warning plane, the Comanche light attack helicopter, the V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and participates on the F22 programme.



Duncan Barnatyan, pictured, chairman of Quality Care Homes, reported profits of £4.8 million before tax (£3.73 million) in the year to October 31. The dividend is 4.95p.

Fishburn Hedges in AMV's net

ABBOTT MEAD VICKERS, the marketing services group, has acquired Fishburn Hedges Boys Williams, the fast-growing corporate communications company, for a maximum of £15 million.

PowerGen post goes to ICI chief

DERYK KING, who heads ICI's polyester business, is to be the new managing director of PowerGen, the generator (Christine Buckley writes).

Zeneca leaps on £12bn Roche bid rumour

By ERIC REGULY

SHARES of Zeneca climbed again yesterday on continued speculation that the pharmaceuticals and chemicals group is on the verge of becoming a takeover target.



Barnes: little room for cuts

The shares gained 43p to £12.91, which is within striking distance of their 52-week high of £13.37, and well above their low of \$40p. On Monday, the shares rose 18p.

Zeneca has a market capitalisation of about £12 billion. A premium of 25 per cent — anything less would be unlikely because Zeneca would consider any takeover attempt hostile — would raise the price to

£15 billion, or about five times its annual sales. That would make it the most expensive takeover in the sector: Glaxo's purchase of Wellcome last year was £3.7 billion.

Tempus, page 26

Surge in earnings by US banks

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

CITICORP led a spate of strong earnings results yesterday from many of America's biggest banks, which reflect the health of the sector and the underlying strength of most borrowers despite sluggish economic growth.

Chase Manhattan announced a 48 per cent surge in fourth-quarter earnings to \$340 million from \$229 million for the same period in 1994, as investment banking income hit record levels and consumer lending showed good growth.

York also turned in strong results for the final quarter and for the whole year. There had been growing fears over the last few weeks that bad debts, particularly in consumer lending, were soaring but so far these have proved to be unfounded.

Exceptions to the run of good results were Nations Bank and First Interstate, both of which reported higher than expected bad-debt provisions, reflecting the slightly poorer quality of their loan books.

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Shares driven higher by scent of cheaper money

SHARE prices and Government bonds were driven sharply higher as City investors caught the scent of cheaper money. Gifts soared around £4 and the FT-SE 100 index enjoyed its best one-day performance for three months. Hopes are high that today's monthly economic meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will signal a further cut in rates.



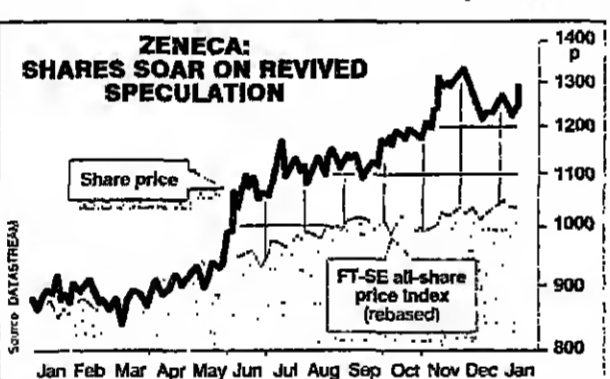
Share rise: Farepak's management enjoying better fortune

Pressure is also growing for a cut in European interest rates, with the Germans reducing their Repo rate yesterday. It follows a reduction in the French intervention rate last week. Hans Tietmeyer, head of the Bundesbank, went on television yesterday to confirm that there was further scope for a cut in German rates. The Bundesbank meets again tomorrow having trimmed a half-point from its Lombard and Discount rates on December 14.

Expect some nervousness in British Aerospace shares after yesterday's announcement that the proposed £200 million flotation of Peoples Phone had been postponed owing to lack of interest. BAE and its partner Hutchison Whampoa are expected to float-off Orange. Their mobile phone network operator.

There was also heavy turnover in Forte as Granada stepped up the pressure in its £3.8 billion battle for control. It snapped up 9.2 per cent of the company during a dawn raid. ABN Amro Huare Govett and BZW paid between 33p and 34p for a total of 87.5 million shares.

Forté described the raid on its shares as a desperate attempt by Granada to restore the momentum to its misguided bid. It said that Granada had lost its nerve and was favouring certain shareholders above others. Last night, Ian Lang, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said that he would refer the Granada bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless the company removed any concerns about competition. There is now less than a



ZENECA: SHARES SOAR ON REVIVED SPECULATION

week trial period to assess the treatment regime and provide drug efficacy evidence. Further trials covering a large number of patients are due later this year. Farepak rose 3p to 284p after reducing first-half pre-tax losses from £1.79 million to £364,000. The group was optimistic about prospects for the second half.

A disappointing set of half-year figures from Remy Cointreau, the French champagne and brandy producer, turned out to be bad news for its 20 per cent shareholder Highland Distilleries. Highland, which produces the Famous Grouse brand of whisky, finished the session 4p lower at 326p, after briefly touching 317p, as it emerged that Remy was trying to reduce debts of £18 billion and convert a further £836 million of bonds into shares.

Plans to shed 1,600 jobs at its Scottish Grouse division as part of a major restructuring plan left Scottish & Newcastle 2p easier at 608p. The move will result in the closure of its brewing and packaging operations at Halifax, West Yorkshire, and Nottingham before October, with production concentrated at its seven other breweries. The group said the job losses were necessary if its restructuring plans were to succeed.

CLIPPED EDGED - London extended this week's gains as bond markets round the world sported sharp rises in the growing hope of cheaper money, an expectation confirmed by the Bundesbank yesterday. It was the future that led the cash market higher with traders reporting heavy turnover as the March series of the long gilt climbed £27.32 to £111.99/32. By the close a total of 88,000 contracts had been completed.

In the cash market, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 finished 1/4 higher at £103 3/4, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose 1/4 to £105 1/2. But index-linked issues underperformed at the prospect of a further slowdown in inflation with gains limited to 1/4. NEW YORK: Shares were mixed at midday as investors remained nervous about the budget and greeted the fourth-quarter earnings season with caution. The Dow Jones Industrial average rose 5.78 to 5,049.56.

MAJOR INDICES

Table listing major stock indices from New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others with their respective values and changes.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues such as Century Inns, Cox Insurance, Crown Products, etc., with their prices and changes.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues for various companies like Persons n/p, Ransomes n/p, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

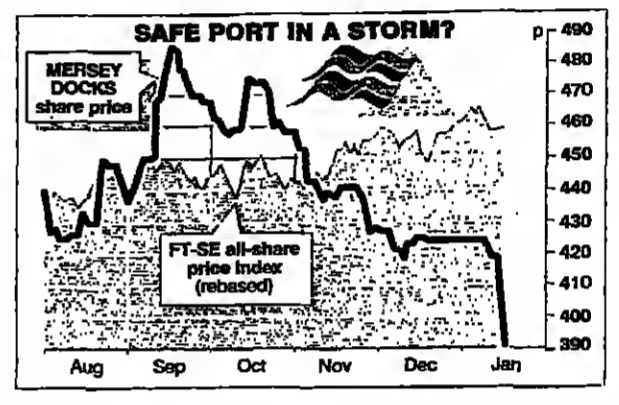
Table listing major changes in stock prices for companies like Central Pacific, Sheel Dag, etc.

TEMPUS

Slimming down at S&N

THE creation of the country's largest brewer in a sector as flat as a leftover pint was bound to lead to rationalisation on a big scale. The shake-up at Scottish & Newcastle came a little later than anticipated but offered few other surprises. Scottish expects to make cost savings of £75 million a year after shelving out an initial £150 million on the restructuring exercise. The company claims the review is now complete, but this mature industry has developed a paunch and it remains to be seen how much further it needs to reduce capacity. Scottish has already taken firm steps with a reduction in the brewing staff of more than 20 per cent. Cost cutting alone will not propel the business into significant growth. Other large brewers have expanded into leisure operations such as hotels and gambling. Although

Scottish & Newcastle takes in Center Parcs and Pontins, it remains the most ardent supporter of brewing. Having chosen that path, the company is under increased pressure to come up with new products. Its rivals such as Bass - have found many spinners with innovations such as alcoholic lemonade, and S&N needs to find similar products to capture the imagination. Alcoholic soft drinks are controversial but they have breathed new life into the drinks market. S&N bought well with Courage. The John Smith's brand, which formed part of the package, has performed creditably but S&N's traditional brews suffered marginal decline in the last set of results. The company has a hard battle ahead, and the last budget did no favours to an industry inundated with cheap imports.



SAFE PORT IN A STORM? Mersey Docks share price and FT-SE all-share price index

Mersey Docks RECENT events in the Port of Liverpool suggest that Mersey Docks & Harbour Company has been caught in a time warp. Unfortunately, the unofficial strike at the docks is very real and there is no doubt that the company will suffer some loss of profit from up to six weeks of disruption. The dispute says more about the scars of the past than the present. The 300 striking Mersey Docks employees have clearly deluded themselves into believing they could force the company to employ 80 workers who lost jobs in a company with no connection to Mersey Docks. The National Dock Labour Scheme once imposed such an obligation and almost killed off the port. Ironically, Mersey Docks could ultimately profit from

Zeneca

INVESTORS would be unwise to hold on to their Zeneca shares in the hope that someone will bid for them at a healthy premium. The drugs and agrochemicals group is more protracted than target, and if Zeneca does buy, its shares will come under pressure. Nevertheless, speculation that Swiss drug companies are raising sterling funds has sent Zeneca stock climbing again. The company is not takeover proof, but presents formidable obstacles to a potential predator. It is not a pure drugs play; sales of agrochemicals and specialty chemicals outsell pharmaceuticals by a significant margin. A buyer more interested in cancer drugs than sugar beet herbicides would have to sell the bulk of the company, and risk doing so at a discount. Zeneca is a tightly run operation with few opportunities to cut costs. Price is the biggest obsta-

Mersey Docks

cle. Zeneca shares are trading at more than 25 times earnings, and any additional premium would send the ratio into the stratosphere. Any takeover attempt would be hostile, leaving the bidder with the need to both fund and justify a premium of up to 30 per cent. Zeneca, which considered a white knight bid for Wellcome last year, can well afford a substantial acquisition. The shares are still climbing but the market is not always right.

Southend Prop.

THE prize for the most optimistic property investment must go to Graeme Jackson and Neil Ankers, who have paid 71 1/2p for shares in Southend Property Holdings that currently trade below 50p. Reverse takeovers sometimes prompt a sudden rise in a share price in the hope that action by a new management will lead to a rerating of the company.

WALL STREET

Table listing Wall Street market data including various stock prices and indices.

COMMODITIES

Table listing commodity prices for LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE including CUCU, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHISKY SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table listing London financial futures for FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250, Three Month Sterling, etc.

DOLLAR RATES

Table listing dollar rates for various countries like Australia, Belgium, Denmark, etc.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table listing money rates for various banks and currencies.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table listing European money deposits for various currencies and terms.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co.)

Table listing gold and precious metals prices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table listing sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies.

LIFTE OPTIONS

Table listing lifte options for various commodities and currencies.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table listing London metal exchange prices for various metals.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Paradise postponed

A CRUMB of comfort for the creditors of Rom Data Corporation, the failed West Country computer firm being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office and Devon and Cornwall police...

It's not the first time that Dawson has had such literary ambitions. In the early 1980s, after John Dawson Motor (Holdings) collapsed with business and personal debts of nearly £2 million...

Smoked fare

LUNCHEON was rudely interrupted at Simpson's of Cornhill in the City yesterday when fire broke out in the chimney of the 1767 building at 210pm...



Audit demon

COOPERS & Lybrand's chosen pantomime this year, at The Mermaid theatre until Saturday, is Mother Goose, directed by Coopers' chairman Terry Middleton...

WHAT'S in a name? The Granada offshoot that yesterday mopped up Forte shares is called Altiqnet Trading.

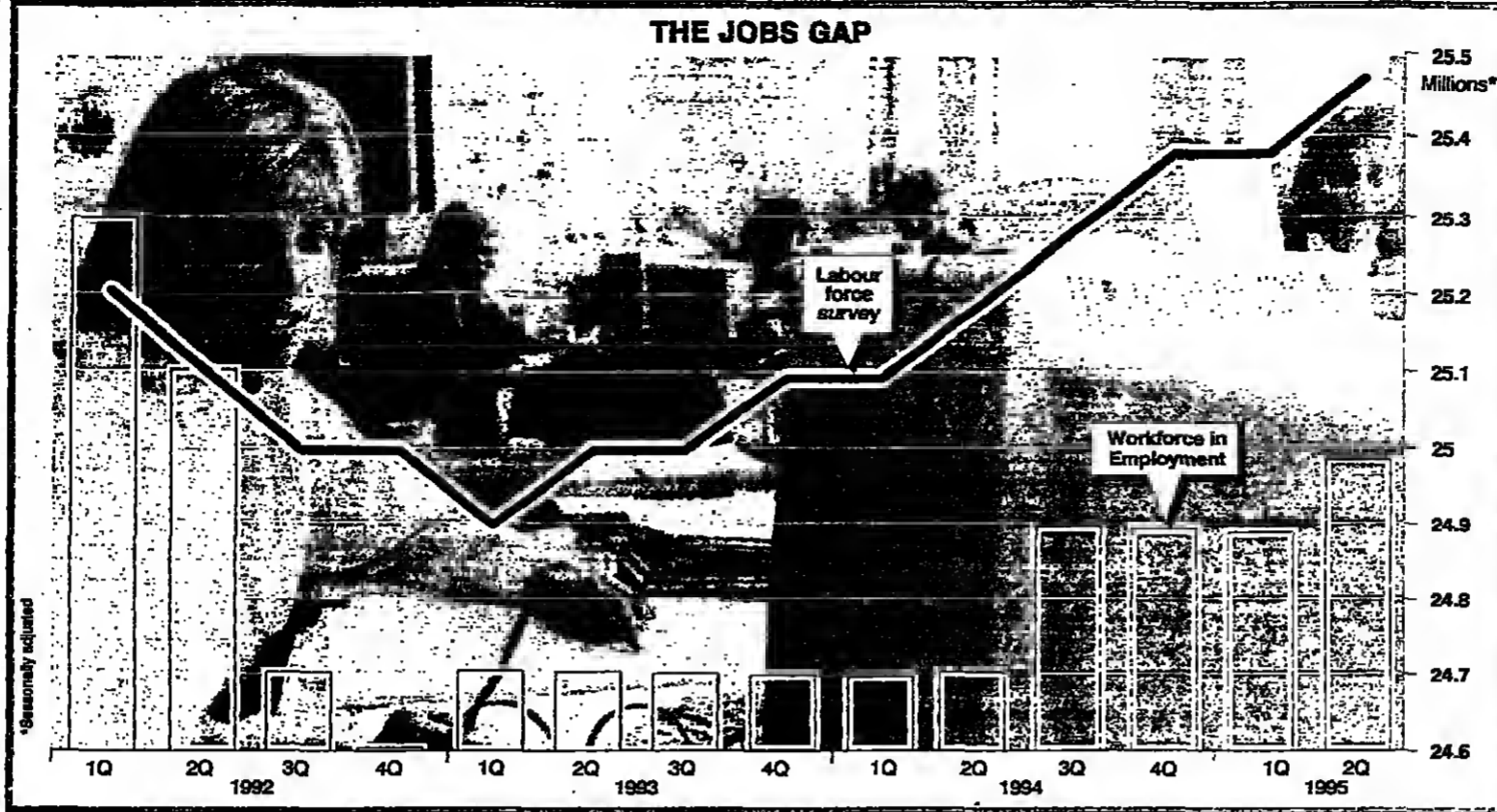
Team deal

FURTHER to a City Diary alert last August 10 about drumbeats at Hambros comes news that RBC Dominion Securities, the Royal Bank of Canada's investment banking arm...

Thin cats

WHILE the debate in Britain about a minimum wage rages on, an advert in the Financial Times proclaims that a Kazakhstani company has premises available and is able to attract workers of different professions and qualifications...

COLIN CAMPBELL



Will Britain's workforce ever stand up and be counted?

Philip Bassett examines the exasperating problem of conflicting employment figures

How many people work in Britain? Even leaving aside the uncountable numbers working in the unofficial economy, the Government does not know...

Just as unemployment is tracked by both the monthly claimant count and the quarterly LFS - the CSO expects by the end of this month to have before it a report recommending the shift to a monthly LFS...

sharply. Individuals were claiming to be in work, but employers said they were not.

Such a divergence spells problems for the Government. In terms of a recovery from the recession of the early 1990s, the LFS told the better story...

Michael Portillo, the then Employment Secretary, now at Defence, asked his statisticians to tell him what was causing the jobs gap and how could it be bridged.



Eric Forth: sceptical

Some ministers, such as Eric Forth, Employment and Education Minister, who will detail the Government's response to today's unemployment figures, are sceptical about the LFS, especially as a measure of unemployment.

But Labour figures like Michael Meacher, the Shadow Employment Secretary, believe the LFS gets nearer than the claimant count to a real measure of unemployment in Britain today.

During the 1980s, the Government's two measures of employment showed broadly similar trends. But in the summer of 1992, they began to diverge and seemed to start telling different stories.

In 1992, employers in the WIE series said that their employee numbers were falling - an idea reinforced by every large-scale business survey and opinion poll. The WIE numbers bumped along the bottom, only starting to pick up when 18 months of falling unemployment started to feed through into job growth.

Despite the obvious often poured on their heads, especially over job and jobs figures, Whitehall's statisticians are concerned that the data they supply is as good as it can be, and the unexplained gap is a worry.

Whether or not the gap is bridgeable remains to be seen. But its confirmation suggests two inescapable conclusions. Firstly, that in spite of the extensive scrutiny applied to it by way of statistics, the UK labour market remains a complex and protean entity, hard to track and hard to explain.

Secondly, as the on-the-ground experiences of people looking for work and the feelings of job insecurity of those in employment tend to confirm, claims by politicians of any stripe of their ability to create jobs, or of their success in doing so, need to be treated with considerable caution.

Rachel Bridge reports on the long road to Olympic readiness

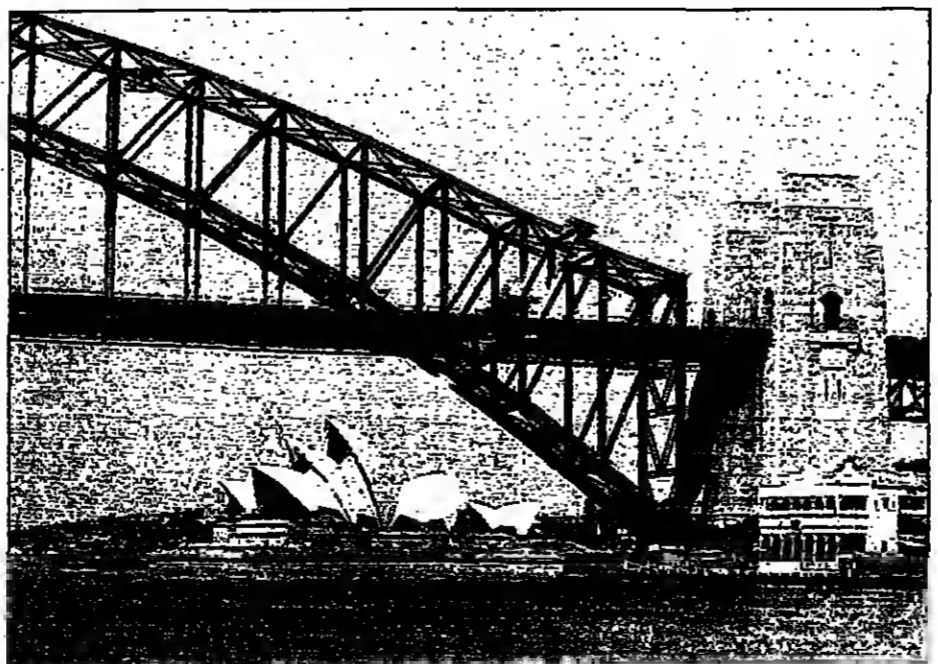
Sydney starts countdown to 2000

While Atlanta prepares to take the world stage as host of the 1996 Olympic Games, Australia is preparing for its own moment of glory - the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

According to Olympic protocol, this year is the earliest that Australia can begin the hard sell of its Games, and deep in the heart of Sydney's business district a team of five is putting the finishing touches to a marketing plan they hope will bring in more than \$1.8 billion (£864 million) in sponsorship deals and licensing agreements over the next year.

The Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games - SOCOG - has already managed to sell the Australian television rights to the Games for \$45 million to Australia's Channel Seven and the US television rights to NBC for \$715 million, both figures far in excess of what they had budgeted.

Such as banking and car manufacturing, who are prepared to put up \$540 million for the event, the commission expects the interest it generates to help to boost the number of international visitors from the current 3.5 million a year to 6.3 million by 2000, and 7.6 million by 2003.

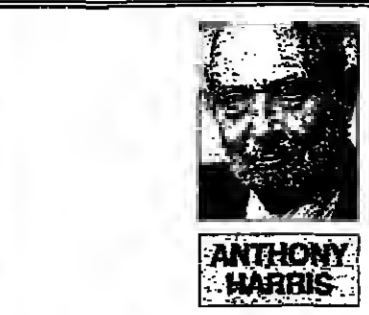


Sydney sights: a picture-postcard view that the Games will help to popularise even more

three billion and four billion people's homes and show them pictures of Australia. Tony Thirlwell, chief executive of Tourism New South Wales, says that winning the Olympic bid has already given a huge boost to the lucrative business conference and convention market.

A spokeswoman says: "We think that the Olympics is going to be a tremendous drawcard. It will be one of the most watched events ever. It's a chance to get into between

the awarding of the tender to one of three private-sector consortia has been delayed until next month and construction is not expected to begin until the end of the year. The headache is not being helped by a growing clamour from the building industry which says that unless construction of the largest projects is started soon, there could be a critical bottleneck in the next few years that could throw the industry into crisis.



German wage push causes Eurosclerosis

Why is the German economy so alarmingly weak? Convention blames the Bundesbank (Anatole Kalesky concurring), but is this the whole story? A rising exchange rate is not the only way to undermine competitiveness: excessive wage increases are just as deadly, as we once learned; and that is where Günter Rexrode, the German Economics Minister, puts half the blame. Last year, the German unions secured high settlements, including some multi-year deals which will knock on into 1996 and even 1997.

America faced it in the mid-1980s, and solved it, with international agreement, with deficits and benign neglect. The Japanese found it insoluble until a short time ago, as the yen went on rising while short interest rates fell nearly to zero. The trouble lies in the capital markets: falling interest rates promise higher bond and equity prices, and so attract investors. It is the same in Europe: as Stephen Lewis points out, the mark hardened a little last week in response to mere hints from Bundesbank officials that rates might fall further. They are left crossing their fingers and praying, vainly, for a strong dollar.

There is a solution, as Tokyo has now shown: cut rates so far that the markets expect the next move to be up, and then sell your own currency ruthlessly - plain playing with inflationary fire. Even a bold central bank would be afraid to try it except during a deep recession: and the Bundesbank is hardly known for bold inflationary risks. It seems likely that Buha and its fan club are condemned to overvalued currencies until the EMU recession gets much worse. This is not, of course, a German or EU forecast; but London is not the only place where official forecasters go in for wishful thinking.

All this might still be shrugged off as an awkward corner in European history if the cause was seen as strictly temporary: a trade union reaction to recent rapid growth, or to the one-off costs of German reunification. But this looks like more wishful thinking. The plain fact is that German unions resist any cut in real wages - which is, after all, their job. Recently, it was solidarity costs; but look ahead, and Tigers, not to mention the rising burden of German pensions, loom ever larger.

It will take a new German miracle to adjust to all this without a deep recession. No more glad, confident morning: domestic management is a binding headache. All this, and EMU too? No wonder that more and more Bundesbank officials, and German voters, are saying "Nein". Not to mention the French unemployed.

The trade unions resist any cut in real wages - which is, after all, their job

BUSINESS LETTERS

Policyholders should not be made to pay for 'sins' of the life offices

From S. L. Smaller Sir, I was concerned to read that payouts under with-profit life and pension policies are being frozen or reduced as compared with similar policies maturing a year ago, despite the substantial increase in equity values over the last 12 months. The reasons offered for this anomalous situation range from over-declaration in past years to the effect of smoothing results to avoid volatility in payouts. Bonuses under with-profit policies depend primarily on the returns of the funds in which premiums are invested, of which equities form a substantial component. Policyholders have a right to expect fair returns that broadly reflect the results of such investments; indeed their reasonable expectations are enshrined in legislation. Equity in bonus declaration is a fundamental principle and smoothing is intended to soften the peaks and troughs of stock market movements and not to invert them. To expect policies maturing now to pay the cost of excessive distributions in the late 1980s when year-on-year increases sometimes exceeded 20% (so much for smoothing) is inequitable and gives policyholders little confidence in the fairness of bonus distribution. Yours faithfully S. L. SMALLER "Comandante" The Close Old Billingshurst West Sussex.

Too early to form a view on bid for Forte

From The Viscount Thurso Sir, Your article headlined "Wontners back Forte" (January 11) misrepresents some of my comments to your correspondent. Mr Reguly asked me if he could quote me as stating the Wontner interests viewed the bid for Forte "positively". I denied this request stating that whilst they were "sympathetic" they could not possibly form a view at this stage since no details had been communi-

ated to any shareholder. The general thrust of my comments was that the views of the Wontner interest and charitable trust remained unchanged, and therefore recent press speculation was inaccurate. In the light of the above, I trust that you will put the record straight. Yours sincerely, THE VISCOUNT THURSO, Office of The Viscount Thurso, Fitness and Leisure Holdings, New Court, Wigginton, Tring, Hertfordshire.

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including:
- ASIA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUSTS
- GOSWELL UNIT TRUSTS
- CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA
- CITY OF LONDON UNIT TRUSTS
- COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS
- CONSISTENT UNIT TRUSTS
- COOP INVESTMENT FUNDS
- CO-OP FUND MANAGERS LTD
- CO-OP FUND MANAGERS LTD
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Table of unit trust prices for various funds including:
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كسب من الاموال

Gilts and equities sharply higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

Company	Price	% Chg
Bank of Scotland	112.5	+0.4
Barclays Bank	115.0	+0.9
Bank of Ireland	105.0	+0.9
First Direct	110.0	+0.9
Halifax	118.0	+1.7
Natwest	120.0	+1.7
Paragon	115.0	+0.9
Royal Bank of Scotland	115.0	+0.9
Savings & Loan	115.0	+0.9
TSBY	115.0	+0.9
Virgin Money	115.0	+0.9

BREWERIES

Company	Price	% Chg
Asahi	140.0	+1.4
Beck & Co	155.0	+0.6
Brewery	150.0	+0.7
Carlsberg	145.0	+0.7
Cas	140.0	+0.7
Heineken	145.0	+0.7
Kaiser	140.0	+0.7
Labatt	140.0	+0.7
Molson	140.0	+0.7
Royal	140.0	+0.7
Schlitz	140.0	+0.7
Stout	140.0	+0.7
T&A	140.0	+0.7
Wolcott	140.0	+0.7
Yates	140.0	+0.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Company	Price	% Chg
Avondale	110.0	+0.9
Balfour Beatty	110.0	+0.9
Bechtel	110.0	+0.9
Building	110.0	+0.9
Concession	110.0	+0.9
Constr	110.0	+0.9
Fluor	110.0	+0.9
Heidelberg	110.0	+0.9
Hochtief	110.0	+0.9
Hutchinson	110.0	+0.9
Hyundai	110.0	+0.9
Impregilo	110.0	+0.9
Kiewit	110.0	+0.9
Parsons	110.0	+0.9
Sellen	110.0	+0.9
Skanska	110.0	+0.9
Tyco	110.0	+0.9
Worleyparsons	110.0	+0.9
Yokogawa	110.0	+0.9

BUILDING MATERIALS

Company	Price	% Chg
Avondale	110.0	+0.9
Balfour Beatty	110.0	+0.9
Bechtel	110.0	+0.9
Building	110.0	+0.9
Concession	110.0	+0.9
Constr	110.0	+0.9
Fluor	110.0	+0.9
Heidelberg	110.0	+0.9
Hochtief	110.0	+0.9
Hutchinson	110.0	+0.9
Hyundai	110.0	+0.9
Impregilo	110.0	+0.9
Kiewit	110.0	+0.9
Parsons	110.0	+0.9
Sellen	110.0	+0.9
Skanska	110.0	+0.9
Tyco	110.0	+0.9
Worleyparsons	110.0	+0.9
Yokogawa	110.0	+0.9

BUSINESS SERVICES

Company	Price	% Chg
Avondale	110.0	+0.9
Balfour Beatty	110.0	+0.9
Bechtel	110.0	+0.9
Building	110.0	+0.9
Concession	110.0	+0.9
Constr	110.0	+0.9
Fluor	110.0	+0.9
Heidelberg	110.0	+0.9
Hochtief	110.0	+0.9
Hutchinson	110.0	+0.9
Hyundai	110.0	+0.9
Impregilo	110.0	+0.9
Kiewit	110.0	+0.9
Parsons	110.0	+0.9
Sellen	110.0	+0.9
Skanska	110.0	+0.9
Tyco	110.0	+0.9
Worleyparsons	110.0	+0.9
Yokogawa	110.0	+0.9

CHEMICALS

Company	Price	% Chg
Avondale	110.0	+0.9
Balfour Beatty	110.0	+0.9
Bechtel	110.0	+0.9
Building	110.0	+0.9
Concession	110.0	+0.9
Constr	110.0	+0.9
Fluor	110.0	+0.9
Heidelberg	110.0	+0.9
Hochtief	110.0	+0.9
Hutchinson	110.0	+0.9
Hyundai	110.0	+0.9
Impregilo	110.0	+0.9
Kiewit	110.0	+0.9
Parsons	110.0	+0.9
Sellen	110.0	+0.9
Skanska	110.0	+0.9
Tyco	110.0	+0.9
Worleyparsons	110.0	+0.9
Yokogawa	110.0	+0.9

DISTRIBUTORS

Company	Price	% Chg
Avondale	110.0	+0.9
Balfour Beatty	110.0	+0.9
Bechtel	110.0	+0.9
Building	110.0	+0.9
Concession	110.0	+0.9
Constr	110.0	+0.9
Fluor	110.0	+0.9
Heidelberg	110.0	+0.9
Hochtief	110.0	+0.9
Hutchinson	110.0	+0.9
Hyundai	110.0	+0.9
Impregilo	110.0	+0.9
Kiewit	110.0	+0.9
Parsons	110.0	+0.9
Sellen	110.0	+0.9
Skanska	110.0	+0.9
Tyco	110.0	+0.9
Worleyparsons	110.0	+0.9
Yokogawa	110.0	+0.9

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Company	Price	% Chg
Avondale	110.0	+0.9
Balfour Beatty	110.0	+0.9
Bechtel	110.0	+0.9
Building	110.0	+0.9
Concession	110.0	+0.9
Constr	110.0	+0.9
Fluor	110.0	+0.9
Heidelberg	110.0	+0.9
Hochtief	110.0	+0.9
Hutchinson	110.0	+0.9
Hyundai	110.0	+0.9
Impregilo	110.0	+0.9
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Rachel Kelly studies the difference between dreams and reality when taking on a listed house in need of repair



Moretons Cottage, Winterborne Whitechurch, Dorset. A late 18th or early 19th-century thatched flint and brick cottage in a poor state with an unstable thatched roof.



Walford House, Drayton Road, Hodnet, Shropshire. The early three-storey 19th-century brick house has a plain tile roof, four sash windows on the first and second floors, a double shopfront on the ground floor, and an adjoining stable and garden.



Monmouth House, Cork Street, Frome, Somerset. This 18th-century town house in Frome's town centre has a pedimented central front door, a tiled mansard roof and one-and-a-half adjoining acres earmarked for development.

Do you really want to stop the rot?

There are few more soothing, sleep-inducing pastimes than imagining how one might restore a romantic ruin to its former glory - dreams of resown lawns and re-rendered walls for that old thatched cottage at the end of the lane. The good life beckons.

Those wishing to convert dreams into reality should peruse One Damned Building After Another, the latest catalogue of historic buildings in urgent need of repair from the conservation group Save Britain's Heritage.

This year's report is the seventh in a series from Save. All chant a familiar litaney: the risks that face more than 100,000 historic buildings.

English Heritage, a quango, estimates that 7 per cent of listed buildings are officially at risk in England, which is some 37,000 buildings. A further 14 per cent, 73,000 buildings, are vulnerable.

Save has selected 130 to feature in its report. Details come largely from the conservation officers in local authorities who have spotted a rotting building and tried to contact its owners, often without success. A would-be buyer would

have to take up the challenge. Councils can serve a repairs notice, then a compulsory purchase order and take ownership of the building. In the past, councils often quailed at the prospect and would rather have the building collapse. "Councils are less scared now," says Jessica Pocock, author of the report. "They know that through our reports they have a number of contacts who have pledged their interest in buying the building on from the council, in what is

known as a 'back-to-back' deal." Some owners have also put their buildings in the catalogue. "Hitherto, these owners had not considered putting the buildings on the market, perhaps considering them worthless except as development sites," Ms Pocock says. Owners who have rural buildings, perhaps on an estate, are realising that they could arrange a long repairing lease with a new buyer, thereby keeping the building in their

ownership while seeing it repaired. Enlightened estate agents and members of the public are also sending cases to Save to include. "Such people are invaluable," Ms Pocock says. "There are still black spots where councils simply do not care or will not help." So should you try to buy a wreck? Dreams should be swiftly swapped for reality, says Emma Phillips, the secretary of Save. The first problem could well be persuading the

owner to sell. "Often these buildings are derelict through the owners' neglect, or are the victims of unscrupulous attempts to get profitable planning permissions for demolition or grants for repair." Getting a realistic valuation may prove tricky if the owner is reluctant about selling. The council could prove your ally, Ms Phillips says. "It could use its powers to serve repairs notices with the threat of compulsory purchase." Those whose fancy is not

From a hall with gargoyles to a home

RICHARD DAJCZAR and his wife Denise bought Leighton Hall, near the market town of Welshpool and 25 miles from Shrewsbury on the border of Shropshire and Powys in November last year for £190,000. The Grade II* listed hall, its church and estate were built for John Naylor, the High Sheriff and true Victorian tycoon, between 1850 and 1856 at vast cost and on a massive scale.

The hall was built with a view of Powis Castle and abounds with castellations, towers, gargoyles and mullioned windows. The interior was decorated by J.C. Grace to Pugin's designs, now in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The gardens were set out in 1860 by Edward Kemp, a pupil of Paxton, and ranged from formal to woodland, linked by a series of woods and bridges.

The estate was broken up before the First World War and remained largely unused until the early 1980s when it was briefly used as a school. Since then, although permission was granted for its conversion to offices, museum and arts centre in 1985 and 1994, it has been neglected. Mr Dajczar, a metal broker, and his wife bought the house from a bank which had repossessed the property from a businessman.

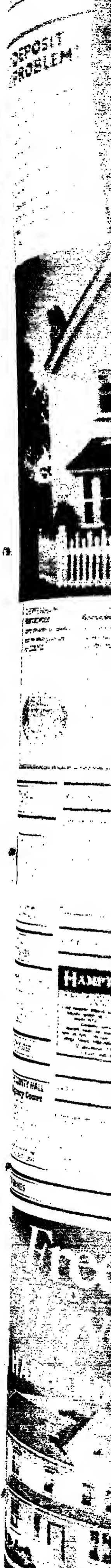
Restoration work is in progress. Dry rot has been rectified, roofs repaired, windows mended, and £10,000 spent. Why bother? "I think it's because it's very rewarding to think that you'll leave something after you die," says Mr Dajczar. "We hope the house will still be standing in a few hundred years time."

HE CAUTIONS that although he was offered a 20 per cent grant on emergency repair work, by the time the grant had been applied for and agreed to, the work had to begin if the house was not to collapse altogether. Mr Dajczar says that the experi-

ence will not stop him applying for grants in the future. He hopes to convert the 35-room house into two large family flats, one for him and his wife and the other for his business partner, Graham Meigh. "It is hard work. It's a form of therapy; some people play golf, I restore houses." And the property is bulging with history. "The first American redwoods were planted here." His main advice? "Get two surveys. One will spot problems that the other hasn't."

THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFERS ITALIAN CITY BREAKS A WEEKEND IN FLORENCE 3 NIGHTS FROM JUST £259 DEPARTURES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1996. Stretching along the banks of the River Arno and overlooked by the Tuscan hills, Florence offers a wealth of architecture from the Renaissance period. Visit the Uffizi Gallery and many other museums which display masterpieces by da Vinci, Michelangelo and Botticelli. Alternatively, cross the ancient Ponte Vecchio and explore the most authentic quarter of this city or relax and browse through the many shops and boutiques around the piazzas. Optional excursions take you through the Tuscan countryside and Chianti vineyards to medieval Siena and San Gimignano.

Real estate listings for various areas including BELGRAVIA & KNIGHTSBRIDGE, CHELSEA & KENSINGTON, CITY & WEST END, MAYFAIR, NORTH OF THE THAMES, HAMPTONS, SOUTH KENSINGTON, HOLLAND PARK, ST JOHN'S WOOD, and LONDON PROPERTY. Includes contact information for Daniel Smith Chartered Surveyors and Grimley.



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VISIONARIES



From Emily Dickinson, who wrote 800 pages of unpublished poetry...

VISIONARIES



...to the supreme pessimist Franz Kafka: we survey three millennia of secret geniuses

THE TIMES ARTS

OFFER

See Petula Clark play Norma Desmond in Sunset Boulevard at our Theatre Club prices

VISUAL ART

A Sheffield gallery exhibits 170 paintings and drawings by a remarkable British recluse

Richard Morrison unearths some of the pioneers, eccentrics and rogues who had 'the vision thing'

Art's secret geniuses, from A to Z

This weekend the BBC is mounting a festival at the Barbican to celebrate Charles Ives, the American composer whose pieces anticipated the wildest innovations of 20th-century music.

Who are the other secret geniuses? Some suffered hardship or persecution; others simply enjoyed bamboozling their contemporaries with their double or even triple lives.

Arcimboldo, Giuseppe. Four centuries before The Sun turned the England football manager into a turnip-head, Arcimboldo was painting human heads made out of vegetables and flowers.

Börlin, Jean. In the daring 1920s, Jean Börlin went furthest. His Swedish Ballet (based in Paris, oddly) was probably responsible for the first black ballet, the first gay ballet, the first Cubist one, the first feminist one, the first Eskimo one and the first about the Brazilian rainforest.

Chénier, André-Marie. Too late - in fact while waiting to be guillotined - the royalist diplomat Chénier discovered the lyrical poetic style that was to inspire generations of French Romantics.

Dickinson, Emily. And on the subject of great neglected poets, here is the supreme example. She lived in one little Massachusetts house all her life; she wrote enough poetry to run to 800 pages in her Collected Works, and saw virtually none published in her lifetime.

Eccles, Solomon. We have no idea how good he was at his first profession, playing the viol and virginals. But after he had ceremonially burnt his instruments on Tower Hill he became England's first jazz performance-artist, running naked through the

streets during the Great Plague, shouting "the end is nigh", or words to that effect. It wasn't; he emigrated to the West Indies where he was prosecuted for further unwise behaviour.

Frame, Janet. Wrongly diagnosed as a schizophrenic and confined to mental hospitals between 1945 and 1954, the New Zealand writer distilled her experiences in visionary novels. Worldwide fame, however, only came to her in the 1990s, when Jane Campion turned her autobiography, An Angel at My Table, into a stunning film.

Gregorian Chant. For 1,400 years Pope Gregory I's favourite tunes were the best-kept secret of men in cassocks and sandals. Then a record-company executive had a bright idea... and those old monolydian chants soared to the top of the charts! His Holiness would not have been amused.

Harrington, Sir John. Queen Elizabeth I called him "that saucy poet, my godson", and expelled him from court on several occasions for being a bit too saucy with the satire. But his true genius lay in the invention of the water closet, bizarrely concealed in a book called The Meanorship of Ajax. Alas, sophisticated plumbing was not to feature in ordinary English life for several centuries after that.

Ingamells, Reginald. Just 24 when he died in 1955, Ingamells nevertheless began a revolution: the Australian literary group he founded, Jindyworobaks (Aboriginal for "takeover"), pioneered native culture as being equal to the work of "dead white European males" like Shakespeare and Milton, and prepared the way for the wonderful concept that we now call Political Correctness.

Juvenal, Decimus. After a career as a soldier, knocking sense into the Britons, Juvenal produced 16 biting satires on life in decadent, 2nd-



'To the outside world Charles Ives was an insurance salesman. Only at the end of his life did America wake up to the visionary in its midst'

century Rome. He was especially good at descriptions of what are coyly known as "unnatural practices". Not unexpectedly, the Emperor of the day (Domitian) took exception and banished Juvenal, who died penniless.

Kafka, Franz. Like Charles Ives, Kafka spent most of his working life in an insurance office. Unlike Ives, he was desperately unhappy and mostly very ill. He demanded that his three great novels of paranoid gloom be destroyed, unpublished, after his death. Luckily for us, his wishes were ignored. Very Kafkaesque.

Lacroix, Pierre. Choderlos de Laclos, Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, was one of the finest French novelists. He was interned during the war, and then published a stunning novel: Cécile, a mordant series of monologues and conversations among corpses in a village graveyard. Later appointed a professor at Trinity College in Dublin, he was fluent in four Gaelic languages and six others. The IRA's literary traditions have declined somewhat since his time.

Mighty Handful. The curious thing about the five great nationalist composers of 19th-century Russia, nicknamed the "Mighty Handful" (or moguchaya kuchka - it sounds so much better in Russian), was that they all had day-jobs. The young Rimsky-Korsakov was a naval officer who sketched his First Symphony while docked at Gravesend. Cui was

an army general; Mussorgsky a part-time civil servant and full-time alcoholic; Balakirev a railway freight agent; and Borodin a chemistry professor. Odd to imagine that lot discussing the merits of the bassoon.

Neer, Aert van der. It took a long time for Neer's moonlit scenes of Amsterdam canals to be recognised as masterpieces. Too long for poor old Aert, who opened the 17th-century equivalent of an off-licence and found that he was no better at selling wine than paintings. He was declared bankrupt in 1662.

Oiradhain, Máirtín. An IRA recruiting officer during the 1930s, Oiradhain was interned during the war, and then published a stunning novel: Cú na Cille, a mordant series of monologues and conversations among corpses in a village graveyard. Later appointed a professor at Trinity College in Dublin, he was fluent in four Gaelic languages and six others. The IRA's literary traditions have declined somewhat since his time.

Pepps, Samuel. A real "secret genius", since his ebullient diaries were written in a code that was not cracked until 160 years after his death. How unlike our own dear political masters, whose dreary jottings are serialised in the Sunday prints before the ink is dry.

Thompson, Jim. Nobody took much notice of Thompson's violent novels until after he died in 1977. Then somebody rediscovered "pulp

fiction", and Thompson - who pulped his fiction with the best of them - became a cult author. His hard-boiled masterpiece, The Grifters, was filmed in 1990.

Utzon, Jørn. The Dane designed the most beautiful of all 20th-century buildings - the Sydney Opera House - and was then forced to resign at the planning stage by pea-brained officials. Now 77, he has never returned to Sydney, and so has never seen his magnum opus complete.

Van Gogh, Vincent. The greatest of all ignored geniuses, and probably the maddest too, though the competition is tough. Odd to think that if an English schoolmistress had not spurred his advances at an impressionable age, he might have developed into a well-balanced young man, and never painted a canvas. Another triumph for British stiff upper lip.

Wainwright, Thomas. Early 19th-century London would have been duller without Wainwright, who exhibited his paintings at the Royal Academy but whose prime talents lay in stranger fields. He forged bank orders and poisoned two in-laws and an uncle, having fraudulently insured them first. A lively essayist, too.

Xosrovidukt. Classic FM has not yet discovered the music of the 8th-century

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Fame at last for the quiet man?

John Downton died in 1991 after a life of painting and writing in solitude. Now we can see his work. School founders was in favour. After being advised not to paint in tempera like the Old Masters, he quit...

Death i raises for the... British explor...



FILM
British director Mike Figgis talks about his rise from Tyneside to Hollywood...



FILM
... and the chances of his latest movie, *Leaving Las Vegas*, sweeping the Oscars

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA
Strong music, preposterous libretto: that's the verdict on Korngold's *Die tote Stadt*



TOMORROW
Our own opera double-bill: ENO's new studio explored, and the Royal Opera's Tippett on stage

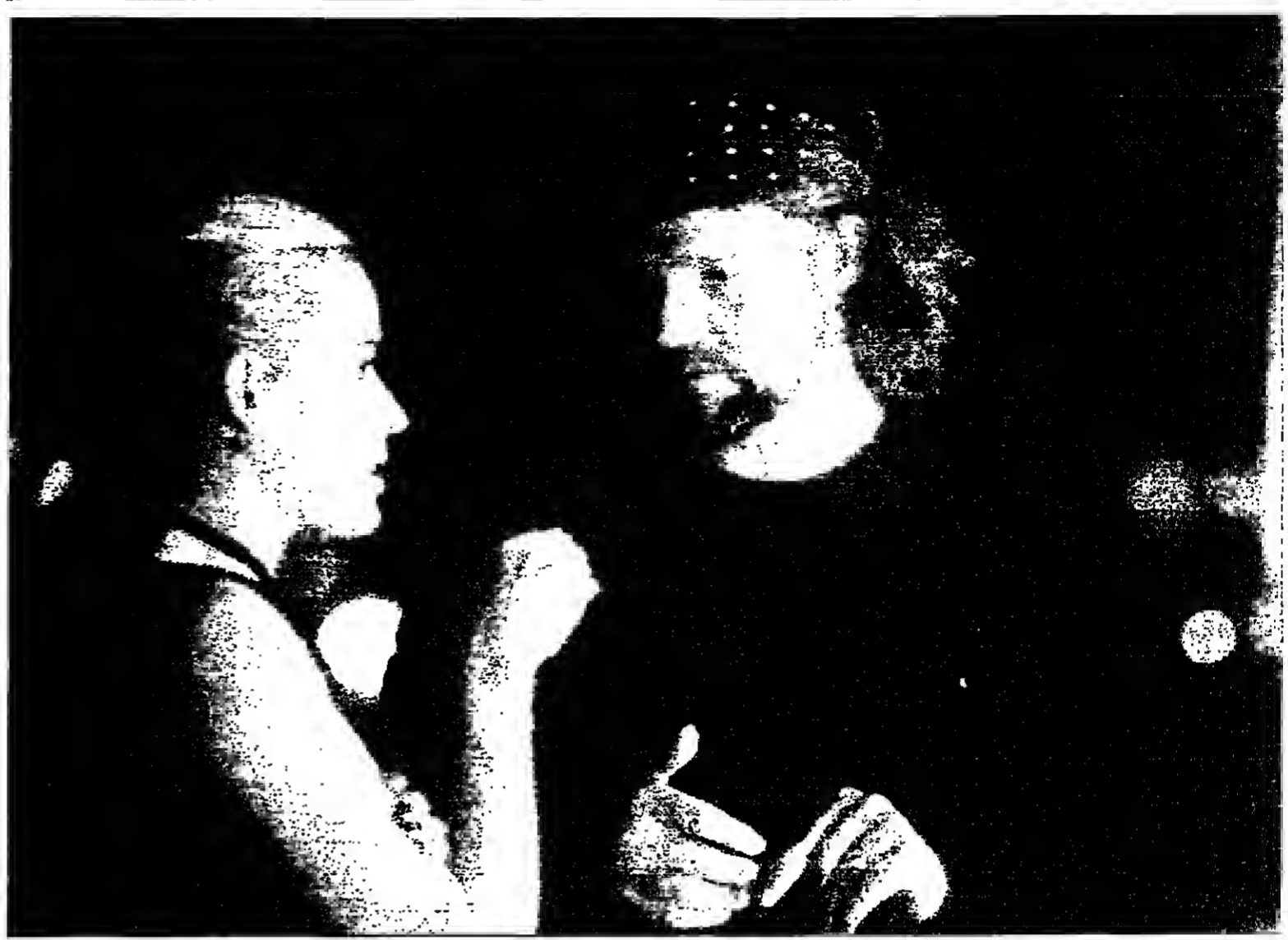
Death in Vegas raises hopes for the Oscars

For a man once rejected by the National Film School, the director Mike Figgis is not doing badly. His latest film, *Leaving Las Vegas*, which opens in Britain this week, has won a clutch of prestigious awards and nominations for Figgis and for his stars, Nicolas Cage and Elisabeth Shue. It was voted best film by the New York and Los Angeles film critics, and other accolades include three awards from the American National Society of Film Critics and four Golden Globe nominations, regarded as indications of likely Academy Awards.

A Geordie made good directing in LA, Mike Figgis discusses his latest film with Carol Allen

Benidorm. It reeks of triple Macburgers and is full of the fattest people I've ever seen, feeding slot machines. Figgis was allowed only three nights filming in the city itself, with most of the shoot being done in Los Angeles. The worthy burghers of Las Vegas, keen on promoting their image as a family resort, didn't like his script, which in a one-line synopsis — an alcoholic goes to Las Vegas to drink himself to death, and falls in love with a prostitute — sounds downbeat and sordid. And yet the effect is of a poetic and sometimes wryly amusing tragedy.

own life, then went back to the bottle once it was finished. He and Figgis never actually met — all negotiations were done through Figgis's friend, Stuart Regen, who first found the project. O'Brien agreed the script, signed the deal and two weeks later, as the film went into pre-production, he committed suicide. "It was as though his particular path had come to an end," says Figgis. One of the elements which is almost dangerously attractive in the main character is his total lack of self-pity. "He's very like a European character, whereas a typical American character these days would be full of remorse, self-awareness or whatever. He's not dissimilar to Albert Finney's character in *The Browning Version*. There's a sort of stoicism about him and I think stoicism is an immensely attractive characteristic. There's something very heroic and brave about it, the idea that you will deal with your own problems and not inflict them on other people."



British director Mike Figgis rehearsing with Elisabeth Shue, who stars with Nicolas Cage in *Leaving Las Vegas*, which opens here this week

JAZZ
Killing them gently
Fourth World
Ronnie Scott's

ALTHOUGH singer Flora Purim warned us that, since Fourth World were just beginning their month-long residency at Ronnie Scott's, they would not reach "killing" form for another week, the band's overall approach is so effortless that such coaxing is simply not an option for them. Even the set-opener, a gentle, swaying duet between percussionist supreme Airo Moreira and guitarist Jose Neto, was surprisingly taut, and by the time the whole band was assembled with the arrival on stage of electric bassist Gary Brown and keyboard player Jovino Santos, they were immediately into their stride, dispensing their trademark mixture of jazz improvisation and Brazilian rhythm.

POP
When a man loves...
Percy Sledge
Jazz Café, NW1

THE enduring emotional impact of his one Top 30 British hit — *When a Man Loves a Woman* reached No 4 on initial release in 1966, No 2 when reissued 21 years later — has ensured Percy Sledge of a place in the collective consciousness, despite a low and at times almost horizontal profile. His version of the classic soul song has surfaced repeatedly on film soundtracks (*The Big Chill* and *The Crying Game* among them), provided the title for Andy Garcia and Meg Ryan's screen romance and has rarely been off the airwaves.

companies in the intervening years. But recently the Paris-based Sky Ranch label financed what became, effectively, a comeback LP, *Blue Night*, released here by Virgin to enthusiastic reviews and itself nominated for a Grammy at next month's Los Angeles ceremony in the Best Contemporary Blues Album category.

The resurgence of interest in Sledge led to this, the first of six consecutive Camden appearances — he plays the Jazz Café until Saturday — in which the 55-year-old singer revealed himself to be as sweet-voiced as ever. Immaculate in tuxedo and patent shoes, his ringed fingers sweeping the air as he delivered one supplicating lyric after another, Sledge interspersed material from that new album (*You Got Away With Love* and *Love Come Knockin'*) with lesser-known items from his own back catalogue (*Warm and Tender Love*, *At the Dark End of the Street*, *Take Time To Know Her*) in a way that showed how consistent has been his taste and style throughout a 30-year career. His fondness for tributes to his late peers — David Ruffin and Eddie Kendricks, of the Temptations, and Wilson Pickett — may have steered the set a little too close to human jukebox territory at times, but cabaret versions of long-familiar songs are rarely this lovingly performed. As for *When a Man Loves a Woman*... it provoked spontaneous dancing among the audience.

ALAN JACKSON

British explorers discover lost city

PREMIERED simultaneously in Hamburg and Cologne in 1920, repeated soon after in Vienna and at the New York Met, Erich Wolfgang Korngold's *Die tote Stadt* has made sporadic appearances in European and American opera houses ever since. In Britain, however, it has had to wait until now for its first performance.

Opera
Die tote Stadt
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Symbolist novel and set in dank, decaying Bruges, the "dead city" of the title. Given an atmospheric staging, this tale of a bereaved Belgian's mental turmoil might make a powerful impression. But in concert, without benefit of scenic diversion, the performers have their work cut out.

have done more to help his soloists. The two principal roles are impossibly taxing at the best of times — that and a couple of seductive arias is why they have attracted great singers. With no pit to accommodate the vast instrumental forces, balance is a serious problem.

PETER GALLAGHER
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CHOICE 1

Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband comes to the West End

VENUE: Opens tonight, Theatre Royal, Haymarket

CHOICE 2

Trevor Pinnock plays Baroque music with his English Concert

VENUE: St John's, Smith Square, tonight

CHOICE 3

In Cardiff, Carlo Rizzi conducts a night of Berlioz

VENUE: Tonight at St David's Hall

THEATRE

Short of bodies and short of intensity: a touring Macbeth fails to hold the attention

LONDON

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Opening night for Wilde's drama of social pretence and scandal. Peter Hall directs the revival of the 1962 production, with a star cast including Marina Ghisla, Anna Carina and Pearly Dwyer.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET, SW1 (0171-530 8000). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Mat: Wed and Sat, 3pm. Until Apr 20.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm. Agan Fri. In Birmingham: Symphony Hall (0121-213333). Sat, Cambridge, 01223 357861.

ELSEWHERE

CARDIFF Mezzo-soprano Katama Kamus, Cardiff Singer of the World 1995, rep. Cardiff Arts and the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera tonight for an all-Berlioz programme.

St David's Hall, Cardiff, CF1 3YF (01222 80444). 7.30pm.

GLASGOW Take three men and 87 minutes and set back to watch the sparks fly as the Refurbished Shakespeare Company through The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged).

GUILDFORD Barry England's acclaimed and outspoken take on conflict, in regional loyalty in 1880s India, *Conduct Unbecoming*, returns to the stage. John Adams directs Daria Duck and Gerard Harpor, at the start of a new tour.

Yvonne Arnaud, Millbrook (01483 440 000). Mon-Thu, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm. Mat: Thu and Sat, 3pm.

MANCHESTER The BBC Philharmonic offers a virtuoso treat, with another in its series of Free Proms. Today's programme is Antonian's Trumpet Concerto and Strakosky's Symphony No 5.

Town Hall, Albert Square (0161 634 1171). 7.30pm.

WHAT'S ON AT THE BARBICAN

First night of previews for *Macbeth* City Arms Theatre's latest show by Richard Wilson and Samuel Beckett in a slaughter-house. Ron Daniels directs Wallace the excellent American poet and playwright. See his One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. This production is a performance of Macbeth's Symphony No 9. The 1955 Manner concert was acclaimed as superb, and tonight's is accompanied by a 45pm talk with the conductor (see his *Macbeth's* *Barbican*, *St David's Hall*, *Cardiff* (0171 530 8911). City Proms, tonight-Jan 24, 7.15pm. Opens Jan 25, 7pm. In rep. Patheonora, 8pm.

THE ENGLISH CONCERT

Four prominent soloists: Trevor Pinnock and company make their first London appearance of the year with highlights of concert of Handel, Vivaldi and Bach.

WINDMILL THEATRE

Admitted by such as Robert Williams, Ed Clark and Nicolson, the Windmill Theatre of the South boasts 45 performers (actors, dancers, acrobats), brilliant costumes, no script.

NEW RELEASES

● **DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS** (15) Scandalous story of a thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in late 1940s Los Angeles starring over 60 cops, police and civilians. Directed by Carl Franklin from Walter Mosley's novel.

CINEMA GUIDE

● **BETJEMANIA** Musical revue based on the works of John Baym. Revised version of the 1976 show by David Bonדות and John Gould King's *Head*, Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1918). Tue-Sat, 8pm. Mat. Sun, 3.30pm.

THE DUCHESS OF MALTA

Check by John's often bewilderment production of an already confusing play by the beleaguered playwright.

RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB

English Touring Theatre's production of Jonathan Harvey's thoughtful and passionate play set in an old London house where most of the characters have love to London.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

Jonathan Simon plays the station. Found in the new annual return of the National Theatre production. See *Outcry*, Old Vic, Wellington Road, SE1 (0171-226 8525). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Mat: Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

LONG RUNNERS

● **BUSBY STONE** (17) (14-20 8000). ● **Cats** (17) (14-55 0072).

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CURRENT

● **ACCIDENTAIRE: WHEN NATURE CALLS** (PG) Overbearing vehicle for London-based Jon Carney, down among the hills of Dorset. Steve Ockler's *MGM's* *Fulham Road* (0171-737 2038).

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF

(15) Love and heroism amidst a cholera epidemic in 1830s Provence. Peter Jackson's *Mr. Holmes* (PG) (17) (14-35 1527).

THE WAR (12) The children of a Vietnam vet (Kevin Costner) find their own war with prejudice (Fred Williamson).

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"THE GLASS LOVE STORY OF THE 1990s", Times

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"A RESOUNDING THEATRICAL DELIGHT", Daily Mail

FAME

"FAME IS A BIBLE GOOD BREATHTAKING" Mail On Sunday

THEATRE: A Macbeth neither here nor there; and an exhilarating mime adventure Everything but the atmosphere

Macbeth Lyric, W6



If the costume fits: Paul Higgins as a reluctant Macbeth with Hilary Lyon, a schoolmarmish Lady Macbeth

James Agate claimed to have used half a column trying and failing to explain why Edna Best was a bad Cinderella, only to hear that a fellow critic had summed up the problem very briefly: "She didn't want to go to the ball." Perhaps something of the sort is the trouble with Paul Higgins, in many other ways an excellent Macbeth. He never seems to want Scotland very much.

The *Macbeth* that Stephen Unwin has directed for English Touring Theatre is a lot clearer and more solid than several productions that have recently appeared with the same title. Anyone who has seen Mark Rylance mooching about a Hare Krishna Scotland in saffron robes will welcome the Tudor costumes and general sense and sanity. The two interlinked problems are a lack of bodies and a lack of intensity.

The first of these results in a skimpy battle, a banquet that is perilously close to resembling the sort of intimate, uncomfy dinner party we get in Ayckbourn's plays, a sleepwalking scene that becomes a quick-fire monologue sans watching doctor and gentleman, and most troubling of all, no visible witches, no cauldron, and nary a glimpse of eye of newt and toe of frog. Even that need not matter. A sense of horror could be created simply by spectral sounds filling the theatre and a look of terror on the faces of Banquo and Macbeth, who here are the only characters to see any witches. As it is, the off-stage voices, the wishful music and the scudding-cloud backdrop do not generate a scary atmosphere. And the actors tend only to stare at row L in a puzzled way, as if they have spotted a member of the audience wearing a conical hat and waving a broomstick.

Higgins brings too little ambition, urgency and need to his early speeches, making it hard to understand why he should want to murder Duncan, especially as David Allister plays the old boy as a spluttering TV chronicler, likely to save him the trouble of murder by expiring in bed. Where he scores, and scores strongly, is in communicating class-science and unease.

This *Macbeth* the honourable soldier twisted out of true. Higgins's performance explains why everybody trusts him, and why his wife accuses him of lacking with human kindness. He makes a most unwilling regicide, one who has to kill half of what's best in himself in order to commit murder, and then finds himself doomed to kill the other half in order to stay alive. It is a perfectly valid reading, sanctioned by no less an actor than David Garrick and played with a fine mix of pain and grief by Higgins.

But Garrick had Mrs Pritchard's awesomely domineering Lady Macbeth to push him into murder, and Higgins has Hilary Lyon, a starchy-looking beanpole who is no worse than schoolmarmish. There is no social friction between them and not much power-politicking either. When she reproves Macbeth after the murder—"a foolish thought, to say a sorry sight"—it is as if she is giving him a D-grade in English. She also displays showing symptoms of collapse far too long to make the sleepwalking scene: especially a shortened one, seem plausible.

While I'm in the caviling mood, why does Old Sward rejoice in his son's frontal wounds when we've seen his back sliced open? Why a Glasgow Macbeth, an Escher Macduff, a Dublin Porter and a Leeds murderer? I cannot answer that; just sum up by saying that, although *Macbeth's* occasionally come better, they are usually a lot worse.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

From Hackney to the Wild West

Peasouper BAC, SW11

inside her coat and steal away through the bats.

Farrar's chief role is the spunky Florence, resourceful, never at a loss for a cheerful smile, never averse to picking up some creepy-crawly object, comment upon its iridescent underparts and crush it beneath her foot. Her true but tormented love is Gordon Whelks, amateur Egyptologist but sadly from a lower social class. The lofty Hibberd has the bony, urgent look of a self-educated grocer, someone likely to battle against the odds in an H.G. Wells novel.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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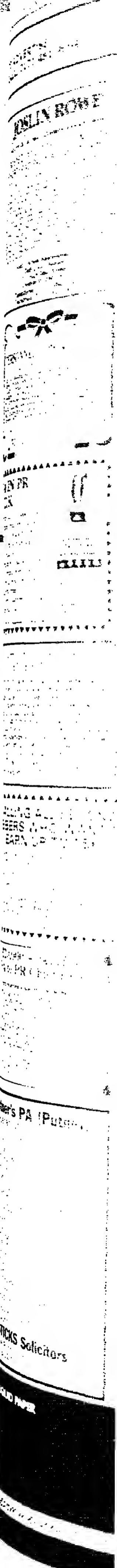
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SECRETARY/PA

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Beardsley sets ambitious target Newcastle stake single-minded claim for double

By Peter Ball and Russell Kempson

IN THE 1950s, the league and FA Cup double was regarded as almost impossible; nowadays talk of it is cheap, even before the third round of the Cup is complete. Tonight, Peter Beardsley leads Newcastle United into their replay with Chelsea saying "we still have a chance of doing the double."

Chelsea have appealed against the sending-off of Mark Hughes, for allegedly stamping on David Unsworth, in the 1-1 draw at Everton on Saturday. If unsuccessful, Hughes could miss five matches because of suspension.

A different kind of double is concerning Manchester City — the failure of their front pair, Quinn and Rösler, to score goals or work effectively together. Alan Ball has kept faith with them for the replay with Leicester City at Maine Road tonight, but his patience is beginning to wear thin.

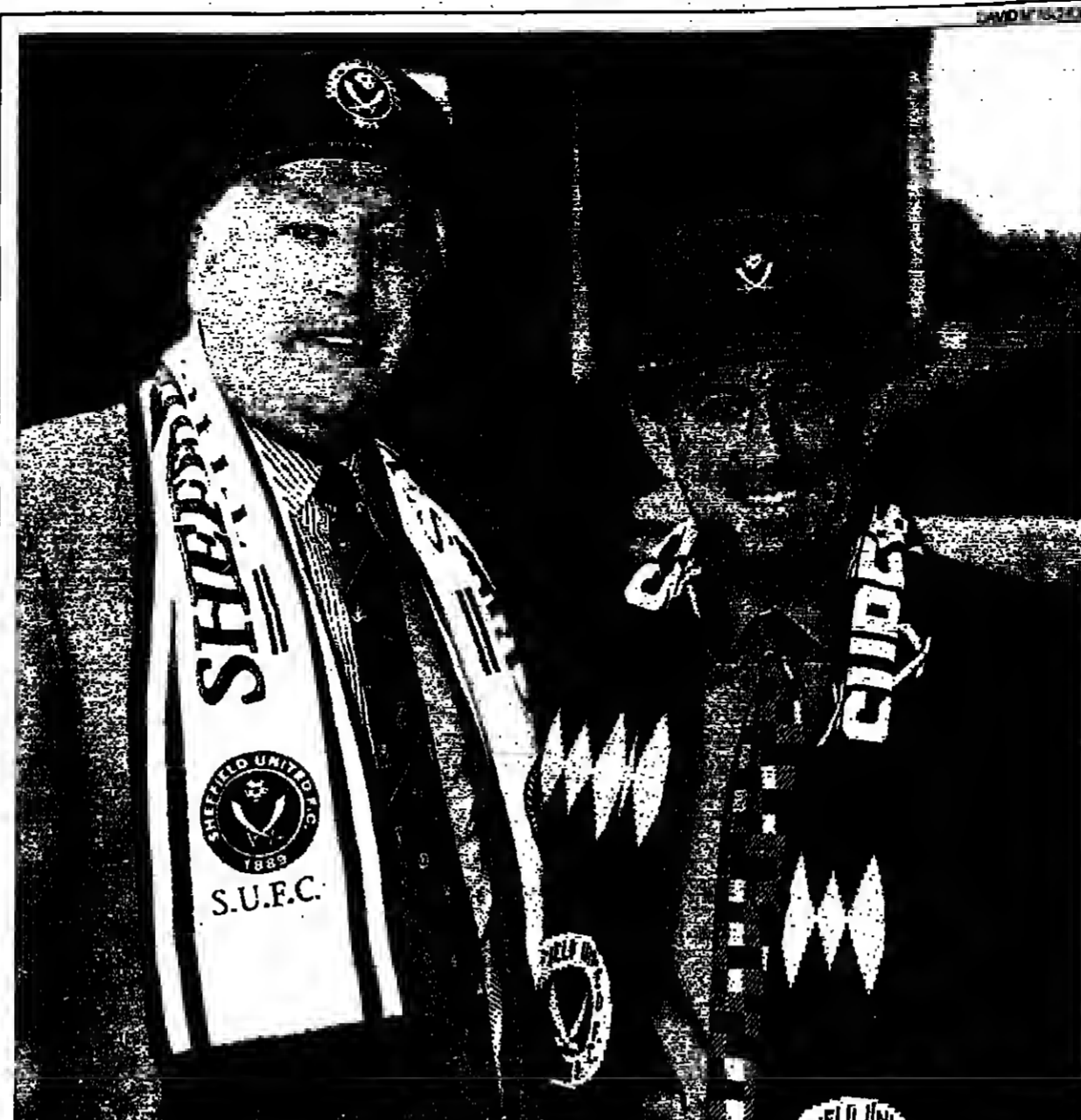
Cliftonville dread penalty prospect

By Russell Kempson

WEST Bromwich Albion can breathe easily again, their run of 11 successive defeats in the Endleigh Insurance League first division having ended with a 0-0 draw against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday. For Cliftonville, though, the nightmare returns to haunt them, again and again. When the part-timers from the Smirnoff Irish League premier division take on Ballymena in the Sun Life Gold Cup quarter-finals tonight, even defeat in normal or extra time might be preferable to what could follow.

Cliftonville cannot win penalty shoot-outs. Of the 17 they have taken part in, they have won only four of 13 in the past ten years, they have won only one. Twice already this season they have endured a slow death at the sudden-death conclusion of a match — in the League Cup quarter-final against Crusaders and in the Co Antrim Shield first-round tie against Carrick Rangers. It is getting beyond a joke, Irish or otherwise.

hit of an optimist, but it's beginning to get to me, too." After a 2-2 draw against Carrick, in November, Cliftonville let slip a 2-0 lead in the shoot-out to lose 4-3. The decisive penalty from Marty Tabb, the captain, was last seen heading for the grounds of the nearby Carrick hospital. Victory for Cliftonville this evening would mean a lucrative semi-final against Lifford, but if it goes to penalties, forget it. Put the mortgage back against and kicketh sink on Ballymena.



Kendall, right, and McDonald, his new chairman, are relishing a brighter future for Sheffield United

Kendall returns to the spotlight

Peter Ball finds a familiar figure staging a revival before an FA Cup third-round replay

A week ago, Newcastle United found Arsenal too stern a test at Highbury in a cup-tie. Four days earlier, a team at the wrong end of the Endleigh Insurance League first division had succeeded where the FA Carling Premiership leaders failed, drawing 1-1 in the third round of the FA Cup and generating the crowds that have queued for tickets round Bramall Lane for the replay tonight, Sheffield United's biggest night of the season.

Howard Kendall, the new Sheffield manager, is looking forward to the game with particular relish. "I wasn't even employed when the third-round draw was made, so to be involved at Highbury was fabulous," Kendall said. "It gives you a buzz, it gives the staff and players a big lift, and the fans. To see queues round Bramall Lane and smiles on people's faces is what you come to the club for. You want to give them something to shout about."

After a spell out of the game, recovering from his dismissal by Notts County, Kendall is wasting no time giving his supporters something to shout about. With a new Sheffield chairman, Mike McDonald, loosening the purse strings, Kendall has set about changing round his team, bringing in seven new players in his five weeks in charge and changing the team's approach to one suited to the passing traditions of the club of Jimmy Hagan and Tony Currie.

up alongside most," he insisted. "The publicity puts a black mark there, so I've got to live with that." Yet among working English (as opposed to Scottish) managers, he still has the best credentials. Like Venables, he worked successfully in Spain; unlike Venables, he has won two English championships and a European trophy. He did it, moreover, with an Everton side that represented the best of the English tradition, which he continues to uphold.

Van Vossen moves to Rangers in exchange deal

By Our Sports Staff

PETER VAN VOSSEN, the Holland international, arrived in Glasgow yesterday to join Rangers and admit: "I'm so relieved to leave Turkey." Van Vossen has arrived in a straight swap deal that has taken Oleg Salenko, the Russian, to Istanbulspor.

Van Vossen, 27, who was transferred from Ajax to Istanbul last summer, can play wide on the left or through the middle. His arrival is another statement of intent from Rangers as they try to see off the challenge of Celtic, their arch-rivals, and win their eighth consecutive Scottish title. Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, said: "The deal has finally gone through and we are delighted to get Peter after what has been quite a drawn-out transfer."

Salenko, who scored a record five goals for Russia against Cameroon in the 1994 World Cup finals, was a £2.5 million purchase from Valencia, the Spanish club, last July. He scored eight times in 18 appearances for Rangers, but failed to settle in the team or in Scotland. Aberdeen have been asked to give their version of how the referee, Michael McCurry, was hit by a missile during the match with Celtic at Pittodrie, on Sunday. The Scottish Football Association (SFA) is writing to Aberdeen for their comments on the incident. The matter will then go before the SFA's disciplinary committee.

Hope soars as Olympic trial hot up

SHANNON HOPE, the captain, is certain that Great Britain's Olympic ice hockey squad can consolidate the lead in their qualifying group by coming through a difficult tie against Slovenia in Ljubljana tonight. The team has won one and drawn its other two group games.

"The Slovenians will be tough, especially on their own ice," Hope said. "But we've had success against this type of opposition before. If we can get through this group we think we've got every chance of making it to the Olympics because the top five progress from the next qualifying round."

Britain top the group with four points from three games, one point ahead of Switzerland and Denmark — both of whom have a game in hand — with Slovenia two points adrift, as they aim for the 1998 Games in Japan. Britain travel to Denmark — who were fortunate to escape with a draw when the teams met at Milton Keynes — in February. In their most recent match, Britain came back from 2-0 down to draw with Switzerland. Slovenia unexpectedly lost their opening fixture in Denmark but bounced back to crush Holland, the group strugglers, 9-0 just before Christmas. They also have a game in hand over Britain. At club level, Humberstone Hawks are in danger of folding after the refusal of Hull City Council to help to fund the premier division side when they take responsibility for Hull Ice Arena in March.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for various sports: BASKETBALL, BOWLS, FOOTBALL, CRICKET, RUGBY, TENNIS, SQUASH, and OTHER SPORT. It lists recent results and fixtures for various leagues and teams.

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Wigan in need of stronger challenge

By Christopher Irvine

FOR all Wigan's achievement in winning the centenary season double, the cream provided by the Super League is the spur in rugby league's 101st year. Goodness knows, the perennial British champions need a worthy challenge.

There is winning easy, as Wigan have mostly been doing, and winning tough, a prospect held out by play-offs with the four leading sides in the Australasian Super League in September, the new yardstick, by which the 12 clubs in the European Super League must measure up.

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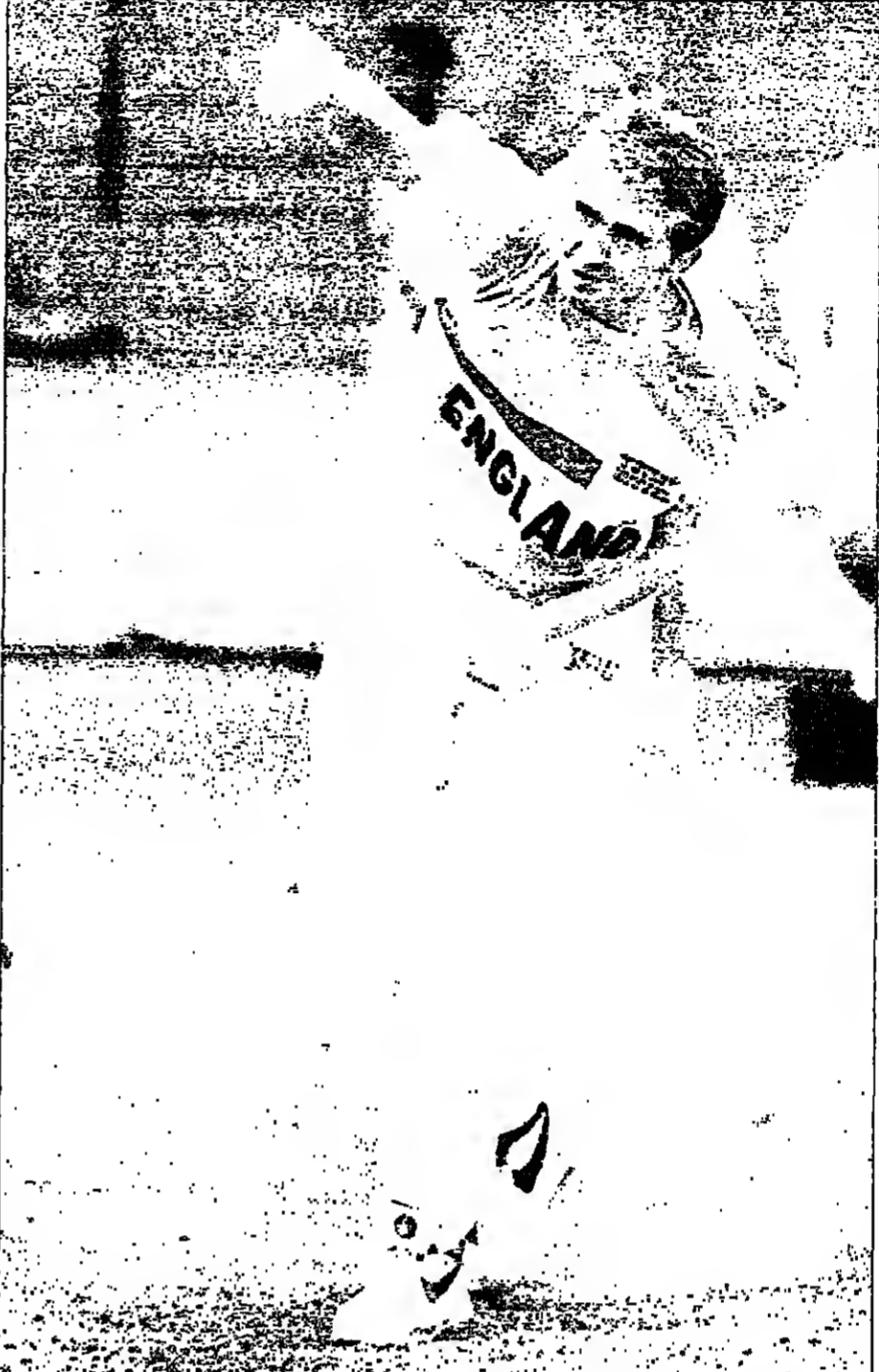
Advertisement for 'TONIGHT EVERY WEEKDA' featuring a large 'BOYZ' logo and promotional text for a television show.

Crowe calls it a day after long struggle for fitness

MARTIN CROWE, New Zealand's leading Test batsman, yesterday announced his retirement...

Warwickshire players likely to be discarded from World Cup party Last opportunity for England to regain credibility

FROM SIMON WILDE IN DURBAN... The time for laxity and losing has run out. If England are not to go to the World Cup in three weeks' time demoralised by defeat and unsettled as a team...



Cork was concentrating on improved accuracy at net practice yesterday

IN BRIEF

Swiss pair celebrate success in slalom

A FOURTH World Cup giant slalom victory of the season enabled Michael Von Grunigen to complete a Swiss skiing double in front of home supporters at Adlonboden yesterday...

Ebdon advances

Snooker: Peter Ebdon joined Steve Davis in the semi-finals of the Guangzhou Masters in China yesterday...

Sevens conflict

Rugby: While rugby union in England remains at odds over professionalism, the Rugby Football League (RFL) sees conflict with an invitation to the Middlesex Sevens on May 11...

Syed suffers

Table tennis: Matthew Syed, who narrowly failed to win an Olympic place at the qualifying event in Manchester last weekend, has pulled out of the European Nations' Cup in Germany on Friday because he is "emotionally exhausted"...

Potts dies

Football: Harry Potts, who spent 13 years as a player with Burnley and then brought the league title to Turf Moor in 1959-60, in the first of two spells as manager, died yesterday, aged 75.

Checking out

Cricketer Simon Kellett, 28, the former Yorkshire batsman, has turned down the chance to sign for Sussex and joined the Coscounter supermarket chain instead.



Crowe played 77 Tests

Sri Lanka snatch place in World Series Cup finals

host country, while West Indies kick their heels... Romesh Kaluwitharana, the wicketkeeper and opening batsman, was their match-winner, racing to the third-fastest half-century in the competition's 16-year history...

TABLE showing match results for Sri Lanka vs Australia, including runs, wickets, and overs.

Nicol banishes critics with unique victory

THE victory by Peter Nicol, of Scotland, in the QM British squash championship will go a long way towards diluting criticism that followed his refusal to play for his country in the world team championship in November...

Moore clear to play in cup quarter-final

MANCHESTER Giants were happy to learn yesterday that Joe Moore, the England international basketball guard whom they signed from London Towers last week, is eligible for the National Cup quarter-final tonight against Sheffield Sharks, the holders...

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT... This is a hand sent to me by Martin Hoffman, one of the best analysts in the game. It occurred in a team match in Miami. It illustrates the importance of making the most of your chances.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT... Caro crushed... For decades, the Caro-Kann Defence enjoyed a reputation for immense solidity. Players with the Black pieces using this defence rarely lost, but also had few opportunities to win.

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1995 QUIZ OF THE SPORTING YEAR... JAMES SCHUMACHER, of Caterham, Surrey, is the winner of The Times Quiz of the Sporting Year and his prize is The Classic Malts...

WORD-WATCHING By Philip Howard... ZOWIE a. An exclamation of astonishment b. A baby chameleon c. "Certainly" in Crypton

WINNING MOVE By Raymond Keene... Black to move. This position is a variation from the game Speelman - Agdesten, Hastings Premier, 1991. Jon Speelman, realising what was in store for him here, had already resigned this position. How would Black finish off?

Tour Lions may have roared their last

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IT WILL be known whether overseas tours, those perennial and much-loved favourites of international rugby, have a future in the open game, after the International Football Board (IRFB) holds its annual council meeting in London next week.

Next year the Lions are scheduled to visit South Africa, who have pledged support, but for how much longer at a time when Will Carling, the England captain, for one, has said he will not tour again? "I believe there will be two points of view expressed next week," Keith Rowlands, who retires next month as the IRFB chief executive, said yesterday.

"In our own professional game some will say there is little time for tours and it would be better to play single internationals, then return home. That would be attractive for the professional administrator. The historic administrator would say tours are a fundamental part of the game and are good for it."

The IRFB schedule of tours goes up to 1999, but contracts will tie players to the arrangements of their country

or club more tightly than during the golden era of touring. "The management of international matches must be done on an equitable basis," Rowlands said. "Whether the Lions survive will be up to the committee of home unions." Clearly, tours by international teams are an effective way of promoting the game and raising funds, particularly in countries whose resources are limited.

The leading southern hemisphere countries may make a judgment on their value after this summer which marries the new tripartite tournament between Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, with the previously-arranged All Blacks tour to South Africa, and has created an unrelenting schedule of international rugby on 11 successive weekends —

great television, exhausting for the players. The IRFB council will also vote on a proposal from New Zealand — one of 37 suggested amendments to the laws now the moratorium on change has been lifted — that all eight forwards remain bound until the ball has left the scrum. This is the case in under-19 rugby, but administrators are concerned at how frequently forwards appear in the middle of the field, stifling the flow of the ball through the back line.

In part, this is a response to their own laws relating to ruck and maul, introduced four years ago. "That would make an enormous and fundamental change to the playing of the game," Rowlands said. "It would make the game more open and take away the midfield clutter." But

he confirmed the board's commitment to historic features of the game, such as lineout and scrum, at a time when some suggest that a hybrid game merging rugby league and rugby union is the way forward.

Rowlands also poured scorn on suggestions that England would be forced to leave the IRFB if member clubs, in rebellious mood last Sunday, insist at a special general meeting that the Rugby Football Union (RFU) should administer an amateur game only.

"It's an open game and unions have the option of paying their players or not," he said. "There are 71 countries in membership, of whom only 12 or 14 can afford to pay players. If the RFU decided to remain amateur it would not affect their membership."

Clamour for change sees open season on coaches

David Hands on the temptation to throw caution to the wind for the management of five nations



There is a remarkable similarity in the siren song of the swath of new coaches whose teams enter the 1996 five nations championship on Saturday. Perhaps not so remarkable given the all-pervasive influence of the New Zealand team which came second in the World Cup last summer.

That is the way to play rugby, runs the coaching chorus. It satisfies the player, the spectator and, significantly, the television audience, not all of whom can be expected to be entirely au fait with rugby union's sometimes arcane laws.

First, consider two points: variety being the spice of life, do we want every leading team in the world playing like each other? Second, the New Zealand game incorporates individuals whose basic skills are probably greater than any other rugby-playing nation and yet it took them three years — and the discovery of the unique talents of Jonah Lomu — to establish the ingredients that made their play so universally admired.

British and Irish coaches cannot instil such skills at national squad training; they have to be ingrained among well-coached youth players long before they break through to representative rugby. Yet it is a focal point, so long as each nation can still retain some national trademark by which their rugby can be identified. By all means aim for the integrated style but let us not all pretend to be English or Irish All Blacks.

For Ireland, that may not be easy since their coach and his assistants are both New Zealanders. Yet Murray Kidd has lived and worked for five years in Ireland; he has come to admire the passion with which his adopted country play the game, "but there must be more organisation, Irish spirit will only take them so far".

Kidd's primary concern is the quality of decision-making in Ireland; he might as well speak for every home union, though not France. There the problem remains one of temperament — not, it should be emphasised, discipline — and who would seek to restrain the Gallic approach which can provide tries such as that in Auckland in 1994, or Twickenham of 1991?

Jean-Claude Skrela, a devotee of the 15-man game played at Toulouse, acknowledges the flair but seeks to apply the organisation that will foster it. That, he said, will require the persuasion which is said to precede inspiration.

Little more than a month ago, Kevin Bowring was confirmed as Wales's first professional coach and his task is the hardest, the tradition of the game in Wales being so great. Yet he can attend club games and see young players who have not had the confidence knocked out of them; he can remember that Neil Jenkins, still only 24, is one of the world's leading points-scorers

and a player of poise and profit for Pontypool who has yet to be inhibited on the big occasion," he said. "We must have speed and we must have continuity in our game and sometimes there are too many ball-carriers and not enough ball-movers." Bowring said. David Johnston would echo the sentiments: injury prevented Johnston from joining the pantheon of great Scottish centres but now, as assistant to Richie Dixon, he hopes to shake the conservatism from Scotland's game.

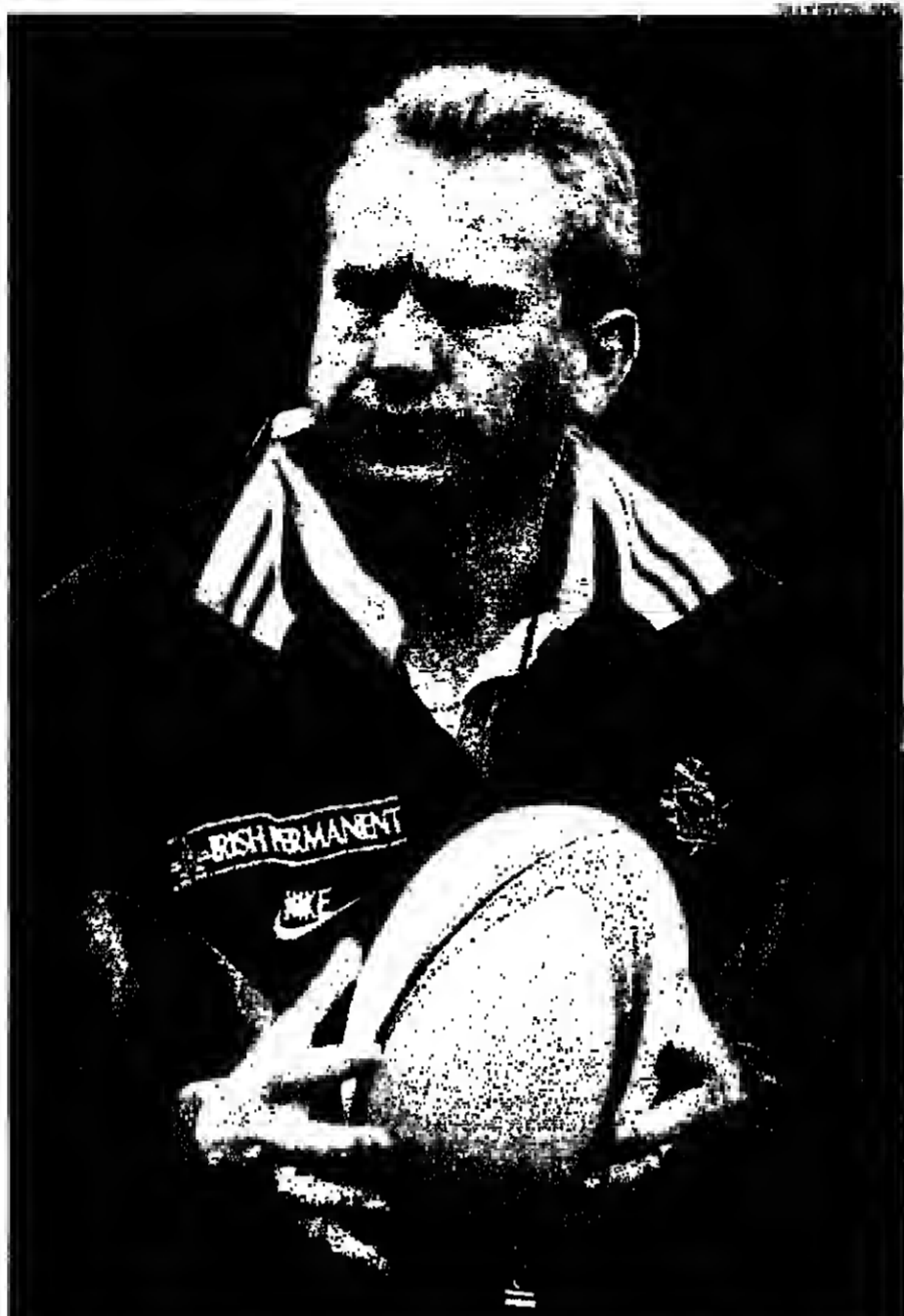
"If we rely on positional play, through rucking and kicking, we will be left behind. We do not play enough high-profile rugby which means we tend to be inhibited on the big occasion," he said.

Kidd and Johnston now occupy the same stage as the England coaching duo of Jack Rowell and Les Cusworth who, because they have been together for all of 22 months, are acquiring a comparatively hoary look.

If Bowring's problem is one of ancient tradition, England's is one of recent success. There is a palpable air of expectation at a time of change greater than any over the past eight years. English supporters have grown used to grand

slams, albeit acquired in a certain pedestrian style; Rowell seeks to change that against a backdrop of underachievement in the club game and now political unrest.

"The one area on which every coach is agreed is that change will not happen overnight. Yet they have only to look at football to see how little patience exists for professional failure. "We can't run before we can walk, and we might get one or two bloody noses on the way," Johnston said. The bloody noses will be those of coaches as well as players in the demanding era of open rugby.



The quality of decision-making is the concern of Kidd, Ireland's New Zealand-born coach



Johnston: warning



Rowell: expectation



Bowring: seeks continuity



Skrela: 15-man game

ter rival of the entertainment Lewis's manager is looking for another opponent in case the bout with Bowe falls through. The substitute contest could be held in South Africa, Las Vegas or Atlantic City.

Panos Eliades, Lewis's financial backer, said: "Rock Newman (Bowe's manager) is trying to get out of the contract because he wants to fight Tyson. Unless they resolve the differences Bowe cannot fight Lennox. We are making arrangements for

Lennox Lewis's non-tide bout with Riddick Bowe on April 20 in Las Vegas was in doubt yesterday (Srikumar Sen writes). A contractual dispute between Bowe and Time-Warner has held up talks between the two camps. Bowe and Time-Warner have only ten days in which to settle the dispute as pay-per-view comparators need three months to make arrangements for a bout.

ter rival of the entertainment Lewis's manager is looking for another opponent in case the bout with Bowe falls through. The substitute contest could be held in South Africa, Las Vegas or Atlantic City. Panos Eliades, Lewis's financial backer, said: "Rock Newman (Bowe's manager) is trying to get out of the contract because he wants to fight Tyson. Unless they resolve the differences Bowe cannot fight Lennox. We are making arrangements for

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Lewis's bout with Bowe put under threat



Lewis lines up stand-in

ter rival of the entertainment Lewis's manager is looking for another opponent in case the bout with Bowe falls through. The substitute contest could be held in South Africa, Las Vegas or Atlantic City. Panos Eliades, Lewis's financial backer, said: "Rock Newman (Bowe's manager) is trying to get out of the contract because he wants to fight Tyson. Unless they resolve the differences Bowe cannot fight Lennox. We are making arrangements for

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1... Ng2+; 2. Nxd2 Qg1+ forces mate.

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Night of the round table

Times Past, Times Future. Radio 4, 7.45pm. It must be some kind of compliment to *The Times*. To find the best title for this round-table discussion between three former Home Secretaries and a former police chief, they looked no further than the venerable leader page device that freezes time at 4.30pm. This chinwig is more to do with times past than times future, although you could say that yesterday's lessons contain the seeds of today's decisions. The former Home Office incumbents are Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Kenneth Baker and John Alderson. Their memories are jogged by Jeremy Paxman. Given his track record for confrontational interviewing, he is unusually restrained. Perhaps he was fearful of being dragged off by the boys in blue?

No Job Too Small. Radio 4, 6.30pm.

The items that Stuart Maconie subjects to close scrutiny magnificently conform to his classification of them as quintessentially non-essential. Is it true that more people are kicked to death by donkeys than die in air accidents? When politicians insult each other by saying that they could not run a wheel stall, are they being unfair to seafood purveyors? Did Margaret Thatcher really say that happiness is a ticked-off list? Does the dress jacket have any sociological or sexual significance? Does the dressing gown serve any useful purpose? For the answers, Maconie depends heavily on a nice-sounding young lady from *Reader's Digest*.

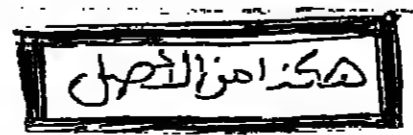
RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
<p>FM Stereo 4.05pm Chris Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Forster, incl. 12.30-12.45pm Newsweek and at 1.15 the Nat. 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl. 4.45-5.00pm Newsweek. 6.15 the Nat. 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Radio 4 Top 10.00 Mark Radcliffe Midnight Wandy Lloyd, incl. 12.15am The Net</p>	<p>All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.20 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 Discovery 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Thirty-Minute Drama 8.45 Home to Lose 9.00 News in German 8.15 World of Music 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newsday 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Meridian 12.00 News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Composer of the Month 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Magaram 3.00 News 3.15 New Ideas 3.25 The Greenfield Collection 4.00 News 4.15 World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Jimmy Young 5.05pm Decca 5.15 Sport 5.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk on 2 8.00 Peggy Seeger (25) 8.30 Rock Island Line. The History of eddie 9.00 Hearts and Hands and Voices (35) 9.30 Nigel Ogden 7.00 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Mackinnon 3.00-6.00 Alex Lester</p>
RADIO 2	RADIO 3
<p>FM Stereo 8.05am Sarah Kennedy 8.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wigam, 8.18 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce, incl. at 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.05pm Decca 3.05 Sport 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk on 2 8.00 Peggy Seeger (25) 8.30 Rock Island Line. The History of eddie 9.00 Hearts and Hands and Voices (35) 9.30 Nigel Ogden 7.00 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Mackinnon 3.00-6.00 Alex Lester</p>	<p>6.00am On Air, Vivid! (Live Concerto in D); Strauss (En Haldenlober); Beethoven (Overture The Conqueror of the House); Bach (The Tale the Jimi Travis Know); Godowsky (7 Studies after Chopin's Op 10 No 5); Puccini (Tua Madre! La Rondine) 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaecchi, Strauss (Prelude; Capriccio); Scarlatti (Sonata in E); Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 5; London Philharmonic) 10.00 Musical Encounters: Ramseur (Trioconcerto; Pieces de concert); Tippett (Festral Brass with Blues); Bach (Cantata No 100; Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit); Beethoven (Leonore Overture No 2); 11.18 Artist of the Week: Sander Nygh, conductor; Mozart (Quintetto in B flat) 12.00 Composers of the Week: Villa-Lobos and Ginastera. Villa-Lobos (Magnificat; stellular); Ginastera (Twelve American Preludes; Bonanzos, excorci); Villa-Lobos (Fudapocore) 1.00pm Birmingham Lunchtime Concert. Mary King, mezzo; Andrew Ball, piano, including songs by Weirick Schumann, Britten, Elgar, Schoenberg, Poulenc and Ravel 2.00 Schools Together 2.20 Time and Tune 2.40 Drama 3.00 Midweek Chances: Handel (Organ Concerto in F; Ostinato and the Nightingale); Shostakovich (Scherzo in E flat); Mozart (Serenade in D; Serenata notturne)</p>
RADIO 4	CLASSIC FM
<p>5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.30 Newsday (incl Weather 6.10 Farming) today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.30, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brennan 9.00 News 9.05 Midweek 10.00-10.30 News; A Good Read (FM only). Susan Hill and guests Heather Couper and Colin Blenkinsop discuss three favourite paperbacks 10.00 Daily Services (LW only) 10.15 This Scepter's Tale (LW only) 10.30 Women's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial: Michael Maloney reads Kate Sarton's <i>Lions and Liquorice</i> (12/12) 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time. Pippa Greenwood, Nigel Colborn and Geoffrey Smith answer questions from the students and staff of Newton Rigg College in Cumbria (1) 12.00 News; You and Your World 12.25pm Babbalanza Hall, an 18th-century sit-com written by Scott Chery, starring Nicholas La Plévoist as Fanton Babbalanza. With a general election on the horizon, Fanton has the chance to represent his constituents in Parliament, as Babbalanzas have been doing for centuries. Only the parish Thomas Berridge stands between Fanton and a glamorous career in politics (4/6) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clark 1.40 The Archers (1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; The Monkey House. A serial by Tad Moore (2/3)</p>	<p>4.00am Mark Griffiths 8.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susanah Shorns 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 James Cook 8.00 Newsday 8.00 News in 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mal Cooper 6.00am Graham Dene 8.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Mark Forster 4.00pm Cindy Harty 1.00am Paul Cople 1.00am Janey Lee Greco 2.00-5.00am Robn Bonis</p>

6.00am Sandy War 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Rubicum 4.00 Sport Chisholm and Low 7.00pm Sean Bolger 9.00 Moz Dee 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

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1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clark
1.40 The Archers (1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; The Monkey House. A serial by Tad Moore (2/3)

2.45 Letters from Here and There. Muriel Carlo, Douglas Young and Nicky Moore in the Principality of Monaco only one thing is more important than money — a parking space (2/6)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brennan
4.00 News 4.05 Babbalanza. Paul Gambaecchi reads Michelle Pfeiffer's new film *Dangerous Minds*
4.45 Stephen King. Interview by Diana Morgan. Read by Sheila Mitchell
5.00 News 5.05 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 8.30 No Job Too Small (1). See Choice
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Face the Facts, with John Walle
7.45 Times Past, Times Future. See Choice
8.30 SRI Lives (14/1) (1) 8.30 Footballs (3/4) 9.30 Kaleidoscope (9) 9.58 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Owen Bennett Jones
10.45 Book at Bedtime: *Loves in the Time of Cholera*. Robert Powell reads Gabriel Garcia Marquez's novel, abridged by Philip Collins
11.00 On Baby Street. Comedy-drama series (2/5)
11.30 Paris London (FM only). Last in the series (1)
11.30 Times Past, Times Future (LW)
12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather
12.30 The Late Book: *Maybe the Moon*. Shelley Thompson reads Armand Maupin's story (3/10)
12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 82.4-94.6. LW 948; MW 722. RADIO 5. LIVE. MW 593, 608. WORLD SERVICE. MW 948; LW 158 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100.1-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 106.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1085. Listeners and radio listings compiled by Peter Deak, Gillian Masey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson



FAIRBROTHER'S INJURY AFFECTS ENGLAND'S ONE-DAY STRATEGY

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 42 CLAMOUR FOR CHANGE HERALDS OPEN SEASON ON COACHES

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17 1996

Defeat of Korda enhances young Briton's growing reputation

Henman attracts open acclaim

FROM STUART JONES TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

TIM HENMAN, the national tennis champion, is no longer the centre of parochial attention. The only Briton to reach the second round of the Australian Open here, the 21-year-old from Oxfordshire is beginning to command respect on a global scale and to attract predictions about his future that grow ever brighter.

The youngster is too level-headed to be carried away by glowing compliments, agreeable though they may be, and he had virtually no time to bask in them anyway. Little more than 24 hours after knocking out Petr Korda, he was scheduled to return to the scene of his triumph for his next match.

Of the eight new courts built in the second stage of the refurbishment of Flinders Park, considered by common consent to be the most spectacular of the four grand-slam venues, Henman was performing yesterday in "rain-spotters' corner". Yards behind the far backcloth lay the city's main railway line.

Few spectators among the record crowd bothered to visit the most distant retreat in the huge complex until news spread that Korda was in trouble. By the time he was eliminated, 5-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4, after three hours, the two open sides of the court were filled with curious bystanders.

Not many had heard of Henman, Korda had, but only through his temporary coach, Tony Pickard. For once Pickard was ambivalent about the outcome. Having extolled the virtues of the Briton before leaving his post as Davis Cup captain, he confessed to "wanting both men to win".

He was so convinced about Henman's ability that, once his fruitful partnership with Stefan Edberg ended a year ago, he sought to guide the nation's most promising individual. Korda, though he has benefited from the rejection,



Henman is a study of concentration as he drives a forehand during his first-round victory against Korda yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

can understand the interest shown by his new mentor. "If he [Henman] can play at that level," he proclaimed, "I think that he can get to the top 20 easily." Korda should know. For five years he was a member of the elite group before the effects of a damaged hernia, surgically corrected in October, lowered his status.

"He's got a great serve, he can hit the ball well and he's got great potential," Korda, from the Czech Republic, added before issuing a warning. "From what I know from the past, he can play a great match and then [follow it with] not such a good performance."

Henman accepted the criticism. As an example of his inconsistency, he failed to qualify for the opening tournament of the year in Doha, ironically, Korda won the title there to lift himself in the world rankings to No 26.

In 1992, the year before he won the Grand Slam Cup, Korda was No 7. He finished as the runner-up in the French Open then, but his grand-slam record is otherwise comparatively undistinguished. Korda was 4-2 down in each set and was spared a swifter defeat by a combination of Henman's apprehension and excessive caution. The Briton yielded the opening set with a double fault, missed three points to take the second set and four points to capture the third before doing so.

He also held two match points at 5-3 before completing victory with his ninth ace.

Such diffidence would doubtless have been punished by a fitter and more combative opponent, as Greg Rusedski was forcibly to be reminded during the closing match of the day on the centre court.

Britain's other representative in the men's singles was heading towards an even more startling upset when, 2-1

up in sets, he held the second of two points to break an irritated and plainly disheartened Boris Becker and lead 2-1 in the fourth. A net cord assisted his cause.

The ball sat up, giving Rusedski the opening he required. Instead of positive action, though, he merely pushed his backhand, was

subsequently passed and lost the impetus he had gained. Becker, transformed, dropped only five points in his last seven service games to go through 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Rusedski struck the fastest service measured at Flinders Park, one of only a dozen aces, timed at 217kph (three short of his world record) and punched holes in Becker's belief. "I wasn't sure I was going to leave the court as the winner," the No 4 seed conceded.

Since being crowned as the champion in 1991, Becker had reached the second round only once. He paid tribute to the lone Briton to have joined him there. "I'm amazed at the number of matches Henman's played recently. That's a good sign. It shows that he's hungry."

Rusedski agreed with Korda's forecast - whatever Henman's fate today against Jonas Bjorkman, whom he beat last year.

Clare Wood, Britain's sole entrant in the women's singles, predictably could resist neither a blustery wind in the afternoon nor the second seed, Conchita Martinez and went out 6-4, 6-1.



Rusedski, beaten in five sets by Becker, is congratulated by his relieved opponent as they leave the court

Ban threat leaves Mason on thin ice

A woman lance corporal from Scotland faces being banned from competing in the skeleton bobsleigh World Cup series because the organisers say only men should compete in the event, in which athletes hurdle head-first down slopes on sleighs that look like tea trays with runners.

Cecilia Mason, who finished 39th, ahead of nine men, in the first World Cup race in Altenburg, Germany, last Sunday is the only woman to have taken part in the series of a sport in which competitors sometimes reach 85mph during descents.

John Goodbody on how a men-only ruling is affecting a British bobsleigh competitor

Yesterday, she was on her way with the rest of the Great Britain team to La Plagne, France, for the next event in the World Cup.

However, her presence in the opening event has worried the International Bobsleigh and Toboggan Federation, which will decide before the race on Saturday whether she can compete.

to bobsleigh and luge, there are separate World Cup and European Cup events for women. However, for skeleton bobsleigh no female-only races exist and there is nothing in the federation's ruling that says riders must be male.

Lance Corporal Mason, 20, from Mermus, near Forfar, said: "I want to take part in the World Cup and qualify for the world championships in Calgary next month. The other competitors do not mind that I am a woman. They have been most welcoming."

Mason has been competing in the sport since November 1994, when she watched other competitors in Germany where she has been stationed with the Royal Corps of Signals.

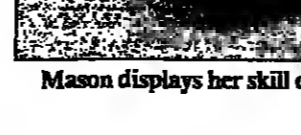


Mason controversy

She has been in full-time training since October, practising on bobsleigh tracks in Europe with the rest of the British competitors.

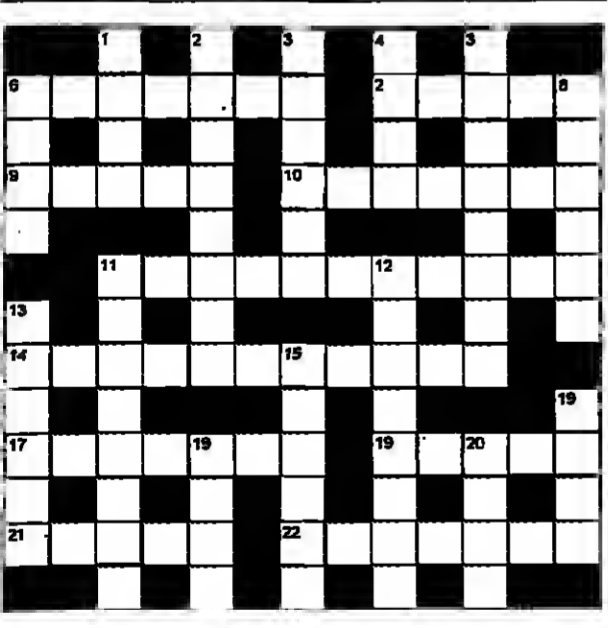
Sergeant Richard Rochester, of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, the British team manager, said: "When she was picked for the British team, she was selected on her merits, not on her sex. Some officials in the international federation think there is an unwritten rule which will stop

her from taking part in the World Cup. We are now waiting for their decision but we feel she should be permitted to participate."



Mason displays her skill during a descent at Altenburg

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD No 680

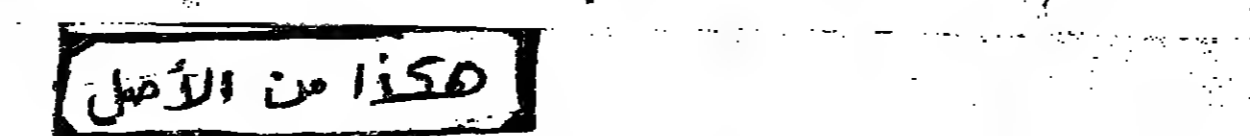


- ACROSS 7 To compress (7) 6 Month Browning longed for England (5) 9 Gradually narrow (5) 10 Large Spanish ship (7) 11 Seer's sphere (7,4) 14 [Eg kill] without emotion (2,4,5) 17 A glass; a pigeon; part of lock (7) 19 Live; endure (5) 21 Fights of honour (5) 22 At top speed (4,3) DOWN 1 Witty remark (4) 2 Treachery (8) 3 Elevation (6) 4 Bucket (4) 5 [Drawing] without assistance (8); discretion (1,4) 6 Place of activity (4) 8 Missing company (6) 11 Trunchion-shaped salad veg (8) 12 Avert gaze (4,4) 13 With a special talent (6) 15 Deprived (6) 16 Nuisance; other half of Buda (4) 18 Final; endure (4) 20 Computer-screen command symbol (4)

SOLUTION TO No 679 ACROSS: 1 Scarf 4 Cassius 8 Labyrinth 9 Ape 10 Hut 11 Expedition 12 Berth 13 Nurse 16 Testifier 18 Fat 20 Axe 21 Spaxulair 22 Torrent 23 Ernie DOWN: 1 Sylph 2 Arbitrator 3 Force the issue 4 Canapé 5 Schadenfreude 6 Image 7 Spectre 12 Bit part 14 Refrain 15 Divert 17 Swear 19 There

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 675 In association with BRITISH MIDLAND ACROSS: 1 Grub Street 7 Example 8 Blind 10 Ordered 11 Chart 12 Escape 15 Mashie 17 Eclat 18 Aerosol 21 Teepee 22 Catalan 23 Duster Down: 1 Grand 2 Upper 3 Steady 4 Rebecca 5 Epitaph 6 Dénouement 9 Dotted line 13 Calypso 14 Patient 16 Gauche 19 Rases 26 Silly

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic or international network is M Terrett, Orpington, Kent. 2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is M E Elwis, Deeside, Chwyd. All flights subject to availability.



Fifa sets collision course with FA over foreigners

By JOHN GOODBODY

FIFA, football's world governing body, and the English football authorities were on a collision course yesterday over the European Court of Justice's ruling on the international transfer system and the number of foreign players that can be fielded by clubs.

Sepp Blatter, the Fifa secretary general, said yesterday that he will order national football federations to maintain the outlawed limits on the number of foreigners in European club competitions. The world governing body is giving its full backing to Uefa, the European governing body, which is refusing to alter its regulations in the middle of this season's competitions on the Continent.

Blatter said the rule limiting clubs to fielding three foreigners plus two "assimilated" players must be maintained by the clubs. An "assimilated" player is one who has lived in the country for at least five years or has played in a youth team in that country.

"This means that a club can sign foreign players if it wants to, but at the same time, the rule will prevent it from simply doing what it likes," Blatter said.

Fifa is effectively mounting a challenge to the ruling last month on the case of Jean-Marc Bosman by the European Court of Justice that football's regulations broke European Union (EU) laws and that footballers were entitled to the same freedom of movement within the EU after a contract has ended as other workers.

The FA Premier League has already scrapped its rules restricting the number of EU nationals that can play in a team and, yesterday, opposed Uefa on the controversial Interotto Cup when its clubs voted not to participate in the 1996 competition.

Rick Parry, the Premier League chief executive, said: "This decision has been taken purely on practical considerations - in particular, the overlap with the European championship and the starting dates of the FA Carling Premiership season."

Venables restores Ince for England gathering

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

PAUL INCE, the Internazionale midfielder player, has been welcomed back into the England fold. Terry Venables, the England coach, has included Ince in his party for squad training at Bisham Abbey next week, an indication that he remains an integral part of Venables's plans for the European championship.

Ince, 28, made his last appearance for England in the 1-1 draw against Romania at Wembley in October 1994. He was left out of the squad for the game against Uruguay last spring because of his involvement in a court case and then withdrew from the Umbro Cup tournament in the summer while his protracted transfer from Manchester United was completed.

An initially fraught spell with Inter led to his continued absence this season and

Newcastle's double aim ... 40

Venables said: "Paul needed time to settle in Italy. I've been abroad myself and it is not easy. It is a new club, a new language and everything takes time. He's got that experience behind him now and he's playing well. He's confident again and it's the right time to bring him back."

With no game until Bulgaria visit Wembley on March 27, Venables views the 25-strong squad session as vital to his planning. "Getting the players in January gives us the chance to do the detailed work that has not been possible until now," he said. "Usually, we have been preparing for specific opposition. My aim is to make a good side better."

Though Venables announced last week that he intends to stand down after Euro '96, he is still keen to involve fringe players. Alan Wright, the Aston Villa full back, Ugo Ehiogu, his defensive team-mate, and Sol Campbell, the Tottenham Hotspur utility player, have been included for the get-together. "With Graeme Le Saux, sadly unavailable, Wright is the one new name," Venables said. "He and Graeme are rivals for the same position at Blackburn and, like Graeme, he is quick and a good footballer."

Advertisement for Graham Gooch hair products. Includes a photo of Graham Gooch and the text: 'HOWZAT! You can have hair as good as this... and it really works. Graham Gooch English cricket captain'

Advertisement for Advanced Hair Studio. Includes a photo of a woman's hair and the text: 'FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE CALL (0171) 383 4591'

Advertisement for Advanced Hair Studio, listing various branch locations and contact information. Includes a photo of a woman's hair.